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THE HINDU

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BENGALURU
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Suryakumar's knock not enough as India loses third T20I
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NEARBY

Rain fury continues; two feared washed away

MANGALURU/HASSAN/ HUBBALLI

Rain fury continued to haunt various districts on Sunday too leading to landslips in Agumbe Ghat and Sagar taluk, throwing traffic out of gear. Two persons are feared to have been swept away in Sullia taluk when the car in which they were travelling fell into a swollen rivulet.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

Taxi registrations drop after pandemic outbreak

BENGALURU

Shortage of cabs in the city has resulted in a longer waiting time and passengers say they are paying hefty fares. The number of registrations of new taxis and autorickshaws has also fallen drastically after the outbreak of the pandemic.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Murmu meets BJP and JD(S) leaders in State

BENGALURU

A week after Opposition Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha visited Bengaluru, the NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu met the BJP and JD(S) leaders in the city seeking their support in the ensuing election.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 3

No resolution to Sri Lanka crisis

The Rajapaksas' parliamentary majority, public anger complicate govt. formation

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Political parties in Sri Lanka are scrambling to form an all-party government, a day after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe pledged to resign in the wake of a historic citizens' protest.

Sri Lankans are living through a harrowing economic collapse, with accessing essentials such as fuel, food, and medicines becoming an everyday battle. In a culmination of people's agitations spanning months, massive crowds on Saturday thronged Colombo's seafront, where anti-government protests persisted for three months over the government's failure to address the long-simmering crisis. Demonstrators stormed the Presidential palace, the Secretariat, and the official residence of the Prime Minister, and occupied the country's seats of power, in a rare display of public fury. Arsonists torched Mr. Wickremesinghe's private residence.

The escalation of citizens' anger pushed the top two leaders to agree to step down, though neither has formally handed in his resignation. Mr. Gotabaya has informed the Speaker that he will step down on July 13. Five Cabinet Ministers have announced their resignation since

Asserting strength: Demonstrators waiting in line for breakfast after entering the Presidential Secretariat premises in Colombo on Sunday. • REUTERS

Party leaders met on Saturday in a discussion convened by the Speaker. They sought the immediate resignation of the President and the Prime Minister, agreed that Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena be made Acting President as per the Constitution, after which Parliament be convened to elect a President from among its members, to pave way for an interim, all-party government. A flurry of political meetings followed on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

CITIZENS FLOCK TO POWER CENTRES ▸ PAGE 11

India vows solidarity with people of Sri Lanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India continues to "stand with the people of Sri Lanka", the Union government on Sunday said in its first reaction to the latest political crisis in Colombo.

"We are aware of the many challenges that Sri Lanka and its people have been facing, and we have stood with the Sri Lankan people as they have tried to overcome this difficult period," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in response to questions from reporters. In Thiruvananthapuram, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told presspersons, "We have been supportive of Sri Lanka, are trying to help and have always been helpful. They are working through their problem, we will see what happens".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Shiv Sena set to split in Lok Sabha

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

After a majority of Shiv Sena MLAs defected to form a government with the BJP in Maharashtra, the parliamentary group of the party is going to see a rebellion, with 14 of its 19 Lok Sabha members likely to ask Speaker Om Birla for recognition as a separate group.

Top sources in the coalition of the Sena faction led by Eknath Shinde and the BJP told *The Hindu* that the move could happen as early as July 13 or 14.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Congress, BJP spar over new forest rules

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh on Sunday sparred on Twitter on provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022. Mr. Ramesh alleged that the latest version of the rules allowed land to be diverted without addressing the problems of the forest dwellers who resided on those lands.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Investment dips | Funding raised by Indian start-ups declined from $10.3 billion in January-March to $6.9 billion in April-June this year

SOURCE: TRACXN, NEWS REPORTS

Start-ups brace for a 'long and bitter winter'

Funds dry up, jobs being axed

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

With funding starting to dry up due to global macro-economic factors, the start-up ecosystem in India is bracing itself for a "long and bitter winter" and potential mass layoffs in the next 12 to 18 months, particularly in sectors such as edtech and gaming that got a significant push during the pandemic, according to experts.

In the April-June quarter, start-up funding fell by about 40% to about $6-7 billion, Amit Nawka, partner, deals & start-ups leader, PwC India, noted, adding that prior to this, start-ups were seeing investments of about $10-11 billion per quarter.

"When we are talking to investors globally, there is limited visibility on when things will stabilise due to factors such as overall macro economic scenario, inflationary pressures, war and fall in the stock markets. Everyone is bracing themselves for a year of low funding. Given all this, start-ups are conserving cash," he added.

As start-ups look to extend the runway with existing funds, estimates peg the job losses in them at over 10,000 this year. "After an extended period of sunshine, Indian start-ups are now waking-up to a potentially long, bitter and cold winter," Prabhu Ram, head of Industry Intelligence Group at CyberMedia Research told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Uranium enrichment

20 The percent up to which Iran has begun enriching uranium using sophisticated centrifuges at its underground Fordo nuclear plant, an escalation that comes amid a standoff with the West over its tattered atomic deal. Centrifuges are used to spin enriched uranium into higher levels of purity. Tehran's 2015 nuclear agreement had called for Fordo to become a research and development facility with centrifuges restricted to non-nuclear uses. But this move deals yet another blow to the already slim chances of reviving the nuclear deal. PTI

Razing Amazon

3,988 In sq km the region deforested in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, a record high for the first six months of the year. The Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, contains vast amounts of carbon, which is released as trees are destroyed, warming the atmosphere and driving climate change. Deforestation is creeping deeper into the forest. In the first six months of the year, the Amazonas state has recorded more destruction than any other state for the first time. REUTERS

Palace bounty

17.85 In million Sri Lankan Rupees, the amount anti-government protestors said was found at President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence. Hundreds of anti-government protesters on Saturday stormed into Rajapaksa's residence in central Colombo, as they demanded his resignation over the island nation's worst economic crisis in recent memory. Another group of protesters entered the private residence of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and set it on fire. PTI

Bar shootings

19 The number of people who died after armed assailants randomly shot at patrons in two bars in South Africa. In Soweto, 15 people were killed as they enjoyed a night out, according to police. Assailants pulled up in a minibus taxi and began randomly firing guns at drinkers. Four people were killed in the eastern city of Pietermaritzburg as two men fired indiscriminately at customers. Shootings are common in South Africa, a country with one of the world's highest murder rates, fuelled by gang violence and alcohol. AFP

Fire incidents

10,350 The number of fire incidents in the national capital in the first six months of the year which claimed the lives of 60 people and injured 395 others. The year saw some major fire incidents breaking out in factories as well as at JJ clusters, according to fire officials. Delhi's fire department was faced with one of the most devastating fire incidents in recent years when in May it found itself battling a furious blaze in a factory in outer Delhi's Mundka area. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Twitter's petition on Section 69A of the IT Act

What is main point of contestation between the microblogging platform and the Central government?

THE GIST

- On July 5, Twitter moved the Karnataka High Court seeking to set aside multiple blocking orders of the Central government as well as to alter their directions to identify specific violative content than imposing a blanket ban on individual accounts.
- Section 69A of the IT Act empowers the government to restrict access to any content in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of the country. Twitter holds that the government has allegedly not shown why the restrictions were necessary in the interest of public order or for any other reason.
- The disparity in assessment of what constitutes 'free expression' and harm to public order among the two entities is the premise of the entire contestation.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On July 5, microblogging platform Twitter moved the Karnataka High Court seeking to set aside multiple blocking orders of the Central government as well as to alter their directions to identify specific violative content than imposing a blanket ban on individual accounts. According to Twitter, the blocking orders were "procedurally and substantially" non-compliant with Section 69A of the Information Technology Act (IT Act).

What has happened so far?
The U.S.-headquartered tech company had been speaking to the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology since May about a reconsideration of some of the blocking orders. However, in June the Ministry gave it a last opportunity to comply with the orders, setting out serious consequence for non-compliance. *The Hindu* learnt from a source privy to the development that it was owing to the seriousness of these warnings that Twitter filed the current writ petition challenging several of the blocking orders. Responding to the development, Minister of State for Information and Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar stated that while all foreign intermediaries have the right to judicial review, they also have the unambiguous obligation to comply with Indian laws.

What is the legality behind blocking content?
Section 69A of the IT Act empowers the government to restrict access to any content in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of the country, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or for public order. All directions to restrict information or content in circulation must be recorded in writing. Social media intermediaries failing to comply with the regulations are liable to be monetarily penalised along with an imprisonment term which may extend up to seven years. The procedures for executing the provisions of the act are enlisted in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. It entails that a government-designated officer along with an examination committee assess the content in question within 48 hours of receiving the takedown request. It must enable an opportunity to the author or originator of the content to provide clarifications. The recommendations are then sent to the Secretary of the Dept of Information Technology for approval to forward a request to the social media intermediary for restricting access. Emergency provisions stipulate that the clarification be sought after the content has been blocked for specified reasons, but within 48 hours. They can be revoked after due examination. Internet advocacy groups have been particularly critical of Rule 16 that suggests strict confidentiality be maintained on all requests and actions taken thereof – often attributed to be the cause for lack of transparency. The mentioned legislations are to be read under the purview of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guaranteeing freedom of speech and expression. However, Clause 2 of the article permits the state to impose 'reasonable restrictions' for the same reasons as those for Section 69A.

What is Twitter's claim?
The microblogging platform states that it respects user expression while also taking into consideration applicable local laws. The disparity in assessment of what constitutes 'free expression' and harm to public order among the two entities is the premise of the entire contestation. Twitter restricts access to an allegedly violative content only based on a "valid and properly scoped request" from an authorised entity. However, the curtailment is limited to the jurisdiction that has issued the legal demand. Its policies stipulate that the author of the content must be informed if such a request is received or acted upon.

As per its transparency report for January to June 2021, India accounted for 11% of the overall legal requests received globally by the micro-blogging platform for moderating access to certain content. Moreover, during the period, internationally it received 43,387 legal demands to remove content specifying 1,96,878 accounts – the greatest observed spike since it started writing the transparency reports in 2012. It attributed the spike in accounts withheld to blocking orders issued under the IT Act. Its petition points to two structural problems, firstly, the absence of a case-specific rationale for blocking content and accounts, and secondly, not according the originators of the content the mandatory hearing.

What procedural issues has Twitter described?
Twitter holds that the government has been merely reproducing the words of Section 69A as reasons for blocking URLs and accounts. The government has allegedly not shown why the restrictions were necessary in the interest of public order or for any other reason. The Supreme Court's ruling in *The Superintendent, Central Prison, Fatehgarh vs Ram Manohar Lohia* (1960) had held restrictions made in public interest must possess reasonable connection to the objective being achieved. They need to be set aside should the co-relation be "far-fetched, hypothetical or too remote", in other words, bearing no proximity to public order.

The concerns are further aggravated when the directions are aimed at blocking individual accounts (in other words, temporary or permanent revocation of an individual's presence on the platform) and not the specific content. Therefore, the contestation now extends to interrogating if the scope of the legislation is restricted to already-existing content or content that could be potentially generated in the future (by the censored individual). One of the prime reasons why the Supreme Court had upheld the constitutionality of Section 69A in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2012) was its adherence to accord a hearing to the

author of the content as well as the intermediary. It is guaranteed under Rule 8 of the procedural norms but Twitter stated that the government has neither provided any notice nor any hearing.

What kind of content has fallen under the purview of Section 69A?
Between February 2, 2021 and February 28 this year, Twitter received directions to block 1,474 accounts and 175 tweets in India. Of these, it is challenging 39 URLs with its latest petition. Several of these URLs had journalistic or political content. Previous judgments of the Supreme Court have suggested the content must be viewed from the standards of a "strong-minded, firm and courageous" person. The assessment must not be from the standpoint of a "weak" and "vacillating" individual who may sense danger in every hostile point of view. It is in this light that Twitter has argued the blocked content does not meet the "threshold" for restricting access. Twitter has also argued that the vast majority of people who consume the content under scrutiny are necessarily literate and can reasonably perceive the full context of the content.

EXPLAINER

The ongoing dialogue between Pakistan and the TTP

Why is the TTP adamant on the reversal of the merger between FATA and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province? Is a peace agreement possible?

THE GIST

- On June 2, the TTP announced an "indefinite ceasefire" given the "substantial progress" made in talks with the Pakistan government during a round of meetings.
- The latest round of talks began in 2021 after Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi suggested that the government could consider giving amnesty to those members of the TTP who have not remained involved in "criminal activities" and who lay down their weapons and agree to adhere to the Constitution
- The Afghan Taliban has played the role of a mediator in the ongoing negotiations. They have maintained that they will not act against the TTP and that if a deal was to be made with the group, Islamabad would have to make significant concessions.

ABIGAIL MIRIAM FERNANDEZ

The story so far: On June 29, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, chief of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during an interview on YouTube said that the group would not back down from its primary demand for reversal of the merger of the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province in 2018. This statement comes amid ongoing negotiations between the government of Pakistan and the TTP in Kabul with the Afghan Taliban's interim government facilitating the negotiations. On June 2, the TTP announced an "indefinite ceasefire" given the "substantial progress" made in talks with the government during a round of meetings. This announcement came a day after a 50-member jirga (tribal council) comprising elders of major tribes and clans from KP visited Kabul and held talks with the TTP leaders.

What has been the history of Pakistan and TTP negotiations?
Negotiations between the TTP and the Pakistan government have been held since 2007. However, the talks have failed to bring stability and peace. The first round of negotiations with the TTP took place in May 2007 when a nine-point peace deal was reached wherein the TTP agreed to stop attacks on security forces and government installations. They stated that they would not disturb peace

Pakistan troops observe from a hilltop post in Khyber district, Pakistan. • AP

in the region. Similar talks took place in 2008, 2011, 2013, and 2014 during which the TTP agreed to denounce militancy and condemned the elements involved in attacks on state institutions, police and other law-enforcement agencies.

What has been the focus of current talks?
The latest round of talks began in 2021 after Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi suggested that the government could consider giving amnesty to those members of the TTP who have not remained involved in "criminal activities" and who lay down their weapons and agree to adhere to the Constitution. Following this, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government under Imran Khan announced that they were holding talks with the TTP so that its members may surrender and reconcile in order "to be able to live like ordinary citizens."

During the talks, aside from the TTP's primary demand for reversal of the merger, it is also insisting on the withdrawal of security forces from the tribal districts, amnesty for its fighters and the enforcement of Sharia in the Malakand Division. Conversely, the government has maintained that all negotiations would take place within the framework of the Constitution.

Why is the TTP stubborn on certain clauses?
The TTP's main demand has been the reversal of the merger of FATA with the KP province. The TTP has been persistent because of many reasons. Despite the fact that the TTP is not a monolithic group, the most powerful factions within it have been the Mehsud Group which consists mostly of Pashtuns, an ethnic group present mostly in FATA and the KP regions of Pakistan. Thus, the FATA regions give the TTP recruitment and operational leverage due to the concentration of indigenous and migrant Pashtuns whose unique political grievances the TTP exploits. Secondly, the FATA region offers the TTP operational leverage due to its trans-national operational potential and its ability to use Afghanistan as a safe haven by exploiting its cross-border, trans-national linkages with ethno-militant groups such as the Haqqani Network.

So, where does it leave Pakistan?
The state's endgame involves convincing the TTP to agree to a long-term cease-fire as well as dissolving its organisation so that they may join mainstream politics. It is for this purpose, the state has once again reopened channels of communication. The negotiations with the TTP have been carried out largely by the Pakistan military and intelligence services.

The military has been authorised to hold talks with the TTP and report back on the progress of the talk, following which the issue will be debated in Parliament. The previous PTI government had a softer approach while negotiating with the TTP, however, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition has taken a harder stance. The next phase of the negotiation would be shaped by the domestic politics at play in Pakistan. However, with the TTP setting impossible conditions, the state is once again posed with a challenge on how to reach an understanding.

Does the civil society approve talks with the TTP?
Civil society and experts have argued that militant groups should not be allowed to dictate how the state and its security forces operate. Moreover, they raised questions as to whether the state is willing to forgive a group that has the blood of thousands of citizens on its hands. The initial round of negotiations initiated by Imran Khan was heavily criticised due to the lack of accountability and the secrecy around the talks. Additionally, the people remain apprehensive about the TTP's willingness to give up completely given that the group has been responsible for some of the most atrocious acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Moreover, civil society has demanded more transparency in the talks with the TTP.

What has been the role of the Afghan Taliban?
The Afghan Taliban has played the role of a mediator in the ongoing negotiations. They have maintained that they will not act against the TTP on Pakistan's wishes and that if a deal was to be made with the group, Islamabad would have to make significant concessions. The Taliban's role in the negotiations stem from Pakistan's pressure to bring the TTP to the negotiating table and its long-standing support for the TTP, which is appreciated for its contribution in fighting alongside the Taliban against the U.S. and the former Afghan government. However, the Taliban's position remains unclear as siding with the TTP's demands while beneficial could also pose a threat if the TTP controls the entire territory it is demanding.

The author is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 11	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 16:26	SET 03:05
TUESDAY, JUL. 12	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 17:35	SET 04:05
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 13	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:50
RISE 18:41	SET 05:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Chances of light rain and thundershower. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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Pious followers

People offering prayers on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha at the Chamarajpet Idgah maidan on Sunday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Schools look at reducing screen time for children as physical classes resume

There were complaints that children were misusing phones citing educational reasons

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

During the pandemic, smartphones and laptops were the only means of learning as classes went virtual. This led to an increased screen time for children.

Cut to the present day, this academic year, schools are taking extra measures and notifying parents to limit the screen time for students, by trying to reduce the reliance on gadgets as much as possible.

This comes after parents complained that their children were misusing phones citing educational reasons.

Like Sujatha S.K, mother of a ninth grader in Banashankari, says, "My son is very interested in watching sports and during the lockdown he started watching web series also. When he plugged in the earphones and watched videos on the phone, I used to assume that it was a class recording or academic video. One day, I just sat down to watch it with him, when I realised he was watching a web series".

There were other parents who had similar experiences, which prompted them to take the matter to the school authorities. "During the lockdown, we had no option but to expose them to screens for learning. If they are going back to school now, then what is the need for sending homework and study material on WhatsApp or other apps?" said Anand B.S., father of a third grader.

D. Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said that most teachers stopped using virtual means for any aspect of learning.

"All the activities happen in classrooms only. Moreover, some schools have made use of some mobile applications where students can log in to for educational purposes and study. But with this app, both the schools and the parents can track the exact timings of usage of the app," he said.

Some schools also called a meeting of parents to inform them of the new rules.

"We had a meeting and we told them that any communication from the school will only be sent to the parents' numbers. For other learning purposes, we have employed the app which can be tracked by parents," said Mahesh, principal, Sunrise Public School.

He added that no complaints have been received after that.

While most schools began full-fledged offline classes this year, some conducted physical classes for one or two months last year. Even then, these kinds of complaints had come.

"There surely was a problem of misuse of phones last year, especially since some of the communication from schools was still happening through virtual means. We called for a meeting immediately and now, the parents are watchful," said Saraswathi, principal at Vasavi Vidyanikethan, in Vishveshwara Puram.

Apart from these meetings, schools have started giving projects and assignments which do not need students to log on to the Internet. They are trying to get students to use the resources available at school libraries and labs.

"We are encouraging students to finish their projects within class hours only. If they need additional information, we ask them to use the computer lab available at school (where they will be monitored). We do not even want them to go to cybercentres for projects like they used to before," said Venugopal, principal, Sri Sharada Vidya Mandira in Peenya.

Student bus pass: KSRTC draws ire over additional charge of ₹200 per month

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Students of various courses, especially undergraduate and above, have been demanding that the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) withdraw its order asking them to pay an additional ₹200 per month as fee for bus travel, before the next annual student bus pass is issued.

As the BMTC extended the validity of the old passes till August 31, without any extra fee, students are demanding a similar move by the KSRTC and the other RTCs. • FILE PHOTO

Given that the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) extended the validity of the old passes till August 31, without any extra fee, students are demanding a similar move by the KSRTC and the other road transport corporations.

Every year there is always an overlap of the academic calendar for various courses and the validity of the annual student bus passes is usually extended. For instance, while the academic year of 2022-23 has already begun for schools and pre-university, the 2021-22 academic year is yet to conclude for undergraduate and higher classes. BMTC has not only extended the validity of the old bus pass, but is also providing free bus services to new students who have joined I PU and other classes if they showed their ID cards or fee receipts.

Aravind, an engineering student from Ramanagaram told the *The Hindu*, "I used to use KSRTC buses regularly for college in Bengaluru. Due to disruptions by the pandemic last year, classes started late and the semester will conclude only by the end of August. Instead of extending our bus pass validity, KSRTC is asking for an additional fee. Travel expenses are already high and this will only add to it. If BMTC has extended the validity of bus pass for two months without any additional fee, why can't KSRTC do the same," he questioned.

Ajay Kamath, State secretary, All-India Democratic Students Organisation, said everyday lakhs of students travel by KSRTC buses to nearby cities to attend colleges and the order by KSRTC was imposing additional burden on them. "We have already petitioned the State Transport Minister on the issue and demand that KSRTC extends the validity of their 2021-22 bus pass by two months, without any additional fee," he said.

Two arrested for selling ganja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Acting on a tip-off that ganja was being sold near Ramana Maharshi park in Achaiah Shetty Layout, the Sadashivanagar Police arrested two persons allegedly selling ganja and recovered 2.18 kg of the contraband.

The arrested have been identified as Mahapatra, from Odisha, and Rolak Singh, from Chhattisgarh. The police also recovered a weighing scale and packets of ganja.

THE HINDU
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Registrations of new taxis fall after outbreak of pandemic

From the 40 per day before COVID-19, they have now come down to just 4

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Shortage of cabs in the city has resulted in a longer waiting time to book a taxi and passengers say they are paying a hefty fare for the ride.

Taxi operators say that after the outbreak of the pandemic, owing to financial distress owners and driver-cum-owners could not repay the loans they had borrowed from financial institutions and eventually that led to the seizure of vehicles by the lenders.

Operators say that over 50% of the cabs that were operational during the pre-COVID-19 times have remained off the road. However, no data of the cabs on the road is available now.

Number of new taxis and autos registered in the last three years

Year	Motor cabs	Maxi cabs	Others	Total
2019-20	12,055	2,656	112	14,823
2020-21	1,099	107	0	1,206
2021-22	1,637	119	0	1,756

Year	Number of autos registered
2019-20	17,273
2020-21	1,259
2021-22	1,478

Drastic reduction

Not only have many cabs and autorickshaws gone off the road, there is a drastic reduction in the number of new cabs and autorickshaws joining the fleet as well.

The number of registrations of new taxis and autos has fallen drastically after the outbreak of the pandemic.

During the pre-pandemic times, on an average 40 new taxis were getting registered daily in the city and that reduced to just three per day in 2020-21. In the previous financial year, on an average four new taxis were getting registered.

When it comes to autorickshaws, the average new registrations were 47 per day in 2019-20; it came down to just three per day in 2020-21. In the previous financial year, the number of newly registered autos was four per day.

This has become evident in how the taxi services have become skewed in the city. Those who rely on taxis for their daily commute say that the waiting time is increasing and the fare is also higher.

Waiting time

Nirmala R., a regular passenger, said, "The time taken to book a cab is getting longer. On Sunday, I tried to book a cab from Vijayanagar to a mall in Rajajinagar and it was showing ₹400 as the fare. That is too much to pay. Even when a driver accepts the ride, he will ask whether the customer is paying by cash. If we say no, he never turns up."

The passengers, especially those travelling to and from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), have been demanding that aggregators initiate action against drivers for collecting the toll fee without using the toll road, not switching on the air-conditioning, and other complaints.

Two years ago, by investing ₹7.5 lakh one could buy a vehicle, but now we need ₹12 lakh to 13 lakh investment. That is a huge amount. For many operators who have already suffered big losses, it is beyond their reach.

K. RADHAKRISHNA HOLLA,
President of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association

The operators who provide taxi services to IT companies and other industries are also feeling the heat.

R. Harish, a taxi operator, who has been in the business for 35 years, said: "In the last two years, the owners and the drivers have suffered a lot. Unable to pay loans, many have ended up losing the vehicles to financial companies. Now, many companies have slowly shifted to a hybrid working mode. We are unable to meet the demand. To get a vehicle we have to make multiple calls to the owners or the drivers. Despite that we are not getting vehicles".

Sunil Kumar, a taxi driver, said, "Drivers have gone through the worst time after the outbreak of the pandemic. Many have left the city and are working in their villages. They had taken out a loan and bought the vehicle. Financial companies are not releasing them without clearing dues which are in lakhs. Who will invest in lakhs to buy a new vehicle? In addition to the vehicle cost, the rising fuel prices, higher insurance amount, and maintenance cost have deterred many from investing in taxis".

K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said: "Two years ago, by investing ₹7.5 lakh one could buy a vehicle, but now we need ₹12 lakh to 13 lakh investment. That is a huge amount. For many operators who have already suffered huge losses, it is beyond their reach. As the cost involved in buying new cars is high, we demand that the State government reduce taxes to give relief to operators".

There are many who could not complete degree due to reasons beyond their control. All these people have been cursing their luck and have remained either unemployed or under employed. Some, by sheer hard work and determination have found jobs, but are still staring at a not-so-bright future due to lack of graduate /postgraduate qualifications. In the present competitive environment, graduate and postgraduate qualifications are a must for career progress.

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Nation in crisis: Police officers walk past a slogan written on the walls near the President's house after demonstrators entered the building in Colombo, Sri Lanka on July 10. • REUTERS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The ground beneath the President's feet

Continuing failures and confusion in policy making are at the heart of Sri Lanka's governance crisis

JAYADEVA UYANGODA

THE GIST

- Soon after Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed office, he launched a programme of restoring Sri Lanka's personalised model of executive authoritarianism. In October 2020, Mr. Rajapaksa used the newly gained two-thirds parliamentary majority to abolish the 19th Amendment. Sri Lanka was thus brought back to executive presidentialism.
- Having been persuaded by nativist ideologues and local conspiracy theorists, President Rajapaksa initially de-emphasised the urgency of launching a rapid vaccination programme. It is only after the pandemic had reached crisis proportions by middle of this year that President Rajapaksa turned to vaccination.
- Amidst economic and healthcare failures, what baffles critics and supporters alike of President Rajapaksa is the degree of insensitivity he and his government display to the consequences of his policy failures and crisis of governance for people's lives and their survival.

Following the storming of the Sri Lankan Presidential palace by demonstrators, Gotabaya Rajapaksa has agreed to step down as President of the island nation. In this article dated October 28, 2021, Jayadeva Uyangoda traces the political decline of the erstwhile head of Sri Lanka.

What has Gotabaya Rajapaksa achieved when he enters his third year in office as Sri Lanka's President on November 18? A not-so-attractive record of failures in governance.

President Rajapaksa has also been losing much of the public support, popularity and trust that brought him into power in November 2019. The present crisis which President Rajapaksa and his regime are facing has four interconnected dimensions – economic, social, governance, and legitimacy. Sri Lanka's worsening economic crisis is not Mr. Rajapaksa's creation. Yet, he and his team of policy advisers seem to be at a loss even to comprehend its gravity and its disastrous consequences which the people are forced to bear.

While the impact of the protracted public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on Sri Lanka's economy may take a few years to manage, its social impact has been devastating. The absence of any effective government interventions to alleviate economic hardships faced by the poor, the new poor produced by the pandemic, the working people and all strata of the middle class, both urban and rural, have a fresh social crisis too.

A strong leader

Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa began his tenure as President in November 2019 by promising the Sri Lankan people a fresh beginning for a future of stability, security, development, and prosperity. He was also open about his ideological project that gave primacy to the aspirations of Sri Lanka's majority ethnic community, the Sinhalese Buddhists. He did not have any democratic pretensions either.

Mr. Rajapaksa's promise was for a 'strong government' under a 'strong leader' to ensure national security, law and order, political stability, and victor's peace with the ethnic minorities. Soon after assuming office, he launched a programme of restoring Sri Lanka's personalised model of executive authoritarianism, that had been suspended by the previous government under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. For this objective, Mr. Rajapaksa made use of the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

Bypassing the then Opposition-dominated Parliament, Mr. Rajapaksa concentrated a great deal of financial and administrative power into his hands, thereby re-establishing the presidential executive as the central institution of state power. In October 2020, Mr. Rajapaksa used the newly gained two-thirds parliamentary majority to abolish the 19th Amendment. Under the 20th Amendment, Sri Lanka was thus brought back to executive presidentialism, which has been the mainstay of Sri Lanka's democratic decay for decades.

Civil-military ties

Mr. Rajapaksa also initiated a new trend in civil-military relations in Sri Lanka's structures of governance. Appointing the army commander to head a new presidential task force to manage the public health crisis and placing the military over the politicians as well as medical and civilian professionals were its first signs. In the new political and administrative order, serving and retired senior military officers are given key roles.

As critics insist, militarisation of public administration is a key component of Mr. Rajapaksa's project of de-democratisation. Continuing failures and confusion in policy making and implementation are at the heart of an on-going governance crisis since the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, mid last year. Having been persuaded by nativist ideologues and local conspiracy theorists, President Rajapaksa initially de-emphasised the urgency of launching a rapid vaccination programme throughout the country. His encouragement of magic and sorcery to combat the pandemic put the public health policy into disarray. It is only after the pandemic had reached crisis proportions by middle of this year that President Rajapaksa turned to science, expert advice and vaccination.

Meanwhile, the current controversy caused by the President's ideologically-inspired decision to ban chemical fertilizers and inputs in all spheres of agriculture epitomises the Rajapaksa regime's record of inept and autocratic approach to initiating economic and social transformation. This inexplicably rash and inappropriate policy intervention has already caused much social unrest and discontent among very wide sections of the peasantry.

Similarly, the recent mishandling of Sri Lanka's chronic foreign exchange crisis, leading to further destabilisation of the country's currency and economy, has caused a fear among citizens that continuing economic policy failures might even trigger an economic collapse. Moreover, the government's repeated failures to intervene to bring the prices of essential consumer items down and manage the runaway cost of living, amidst uncertainties and confusion in policy decisions and their implementation, have further dented the President's much advertised claim to an efficient, result-oriented, professionalised, technocratic, and no-nonsense style of leadership and governance.

Core issues

Thus, the Sri Lankan government's apathy towards the suffering of the people amidst rapidly declining income levels and an erosion of living standards and economic insecurity caused by a rampant economic and financial crisis is just one among many instances of a serious failure in governance. Moreover, the severity of the economic crisis has also made it impossible for President Rajapaksa to initiate a state-sponsored social support programme for the poor, the new poor and vulnerable segments of the people. This, obviously, is at the mainstay of Sri Lanka's growing social crisis at present.

Amidst all this, what baffles the critics and the supporters alike of President Rajapaksa is the degree of insensitivity he and his government display to the consequences of his policy failures and crisis of governance for people's lives and their survival. It is the accumulation of such failures at multiple levels of policy, governance, and leadership that has seriously eroded the popular support that Mr. Rajapaksa enjoyed just two years ago. It also constitutes the core of the legitimacy crisis he has to deal with at the personal level as well.

The Rajapaksa administration is now facing open defiance and protests by three large segments of citizens who may have overwhelmingly voted for him in November 2019: rural farmers, small producers engaged in export agriculture, and public sector schoolteachers. As many of them are reported to have been saying at their protest rallies, defying police threats and the ridicule by ruling party politicians, they now regret that they have voted such a band of rulers into power. It is this open expression of a generalised feeling of loss of political trust and public disillusionment with President Rajapaksa's leadership that symbolises the acuteness of the legitimacy crisis he has to deal with in the weeks and months to come.

International relations

One area where the President has managed to secure some success is foreign relations. He seems to have taken note of the bad press he got locally, regionally and internationally for his regime's close proximity to China at the expense of Sri Lanka's traditional allies and friends. Mending relations with India, Europe and America appears to be a recent policy shift he has engineered.

However, the President seems to be quite determined to stay in power till the end of his current term and beyond. If Charles de Gaulle and Lee Kuan Yew were the role models of former Sri Lankan leader J.R. Jayewardene, Lee Kuan Yew and Chinese President Xi Jinping are Mr. Rajapaksa's idols.

One crucial lesson that he seems to have learnt from all those leaders is that one term of office is hardly adequate for a ruler who thinks of himself as personifying the nation's destiny. Meanwhile, a weakened and politically unassertive parliamentary Opposition seems to be President Rajapaksa's only credible political asset at the moment.

Jayadeva Uyangoda is Former Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The views expressed are personal

THE DAILY QUIZ

With the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa set to resign in the wake of an uprising, here's a quiz on popular agitations that led to regime changes

1 Known as the "Yellow Revolution", this featured a series of demonstrations in 1986 against a regime and to the demise of it after 20 years of dictatorship followed by restoration of democracy in that country. Ironically 36 years after the dictator was deposed, his son has now become the President of the country. Name the dictator, his son and the country.

2 Held merely months before the 1988 Olympic Games, this uprising forced the ruling military regime to hold elections and bring about other democratic reforms that set up what is called the "Sixth Republic" in this country. Name the country and the president who was first nominated by the military regime and later won democratic elections in the same year.

3 One of the countries where the Arab Spring succeeded and has endured was where the so-called "Jasmine Revolution" occurred to overthrow long time president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. One of the reasons for the success in the transition to democracy was the presence of a major trade union among other civil society actors. Name the union and the civil society collective that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 and the country.

4 What began as a military coup by left leaning military officers against an authoritarian regime that ruled that country for more than four decades, later received support from a civil resistance movement, which led to democratisation in this country and freedom for several of the countries' colonies. Name the country and the revolution that took place here in 1974.

◄ Name this former Prime Minister who was one of the architects of a peace treaty that ended civil war in his country, brought a detente between warring rebels and paved the way for the country's transition from a monarchy to a republic through the election of a constituent assembly. • WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the July 8 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The significance of the date of the launch of STS-1. **Ans: It was the 20th anniversary of the first human spaceflight; STS expands as Space Transportation System.**
2. Of the six orbiters built for flight, this one was retired after the completion of critical testing. **Ans: Enterprise**
3. The five orbiters that went to space. **Ans: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour**
4. January 28, 1986, and February 1, 2003 is significant in the history of the Space Shuttle for this reason. **Ans: It was on those dates that the Columbia and Challenger disasters happened.**
5. The visual effect which formed from the foam insulation sprayed on the tank's aluminium structure. **Ans: It gave it the distinct orange colour.**
6. STS-70 was delayed because holes were found in the foam insulation of the external tank caused by these. **Ans: Nesting flicker woodpeckers**
7. The craft meaning 'Snowstorm' or 'Blizzard' that is considered the Russian equivalent of the Space Shuttle. **Ans: Buran**
Visual: This moonwalker who was one of the two crew members on the inaugural STS-1 mission. **Ans: John W. Young**

Early Birds: Vineetha O. K.| Upasana Chopra| Devika Rajesh| Mahmood Lebbai

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Born with a silver spoon in your mouth

I will have to intervene if he does not stop interfering

S. UPENDRAN

What is the difference between 'interfere' and 'intervene'? (S. Ramanan, Madurai)

Both words consist of three syllables, and both have the stress on the final syllable. The two words are pronounced 'in-te-VEEN' and 'in-te-FEAR'. Unlike the word 'intervene', 'interfere' has a negative connotation; it is normally used to show disapproval. People often accuse their parents of interfering in their life; in other words, the parents get involved in matters that are of no concern to them. In the process, they do not allow their kids to lead a life of their own. When someone 'interferes', he is poking his nose into another person's business – he is getting in the way of the individual; thus, making him angry.

You may be my boss. But please don't interfere in my work.

Our kids have kids of their own. I think you should stop interfering in their life.

When you 'intervene' in someone's problem, you get involved in the hope of solving it. In this case, you may intentionally get involved, or you may be invited by the two disputing parties to help solve the problem. Neither party will have the feeling that you are poking your nose into their business. Both parties will be of the opinion that you are trying to help. The word has a positive connotation.

The Minister intervened and ensured that all teachers received their salary.

I don't think that the UN should intervene in this matter.

How is the word 'smidgen' pronounced? (J. Kamakshi, Chennai)

This is a word that is mostly restricted to informal contexts. The 'idg' in the first syllable sounds like the 'idge' in 'fridge' and 'bridge', while the 'e' in the final syllable is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bin', 'tin' and 'kin'. The word is pronounced 'SMIJ-in' with the stress on the first syllable. When you say that you would like a 'smidgen' of something, what you are suggesting is that you would like a very small amount of it. Scholars believe that the word comes from the Scottish 'smitch' meaning 'very small amount; small, insignificant person'.

The kids must have been really hungry. There isn't a smidgen of upma left.

The problem can be easily solved by someone with a smidgen of common sense.

The word can also be spelt 'smidgeon' and 'smidgin'.

What is the meaning and origin of the expression 'be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth'? (L. Nagesh, Sholapur)

When you are born with a silver spoon in your mouth, you are born into a very rich family. Being wealthy, you have a very privileged upbringing, and enjoy all the things that money can buy – good food, good clothes, good education, etc.

Dileep never had to work a day in his life. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

All that you see before you is hard-earned money. I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth.

At the time of christening, people sometimes shower the baby with gifts. The godparents of the child always give the baby something special. In the past, if the godparents happened to be wealthy, they usually gave their godchild a silver spoon – something which only the rich could afford.

Don't let schooling interfere with your education.

-Mark Twain

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Rain fury continues in several districts; two feared washed away

Landslip in Agumbe Ghat throws vehicular movement out of gear; three classrooms of government higher primary school in Udupi district collapse

KARNATAKA BUREAU
MANGALURU/HASSAN/MYSURU/HUBBALLI

Rain fury continued to haunt various districts of the State, especially those in Malnad and coastal region, on Sunday too leading to landslips in Agumbe Ghat and Sagar taluk, throwing vehicular movement out of gear. Two persons are feared to have been swept away in Sullia taluk when the car in which they were travelling fell into a swollen rivulet.

The incident occurred in the intervening night of July 9 and 10 when the car fell into Gowri Halla in Bellare police limits of Sullia taluk. While the car was fished out on Sunday noon, search is still on for the occupants who have been identified as Dhanush, 28, and his brother-in-law Dhanush, 21.

Tonnes of soil caved in on the busy Malpe-Tirthahalli National Highway 169A in a landslip triggered by torrential rains on the Agumbe Ghat on Saturday night affecting vehicular movement on the busy highway. Following this, vehicles have been restricted through the ghat till 8 a.m. of Tuesday.

Three classrooms of government higher primary school in Ammanavara Toppu in Uppunda village of Udupi district collapsed due to heavy rains on Saturday.

The temple town of Kukke Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada district recorded the maximum of 210 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

A landslip in Adagalale village of Sankanna Shanbhog Gram Panchayat in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district left hundreds of farmers in a state of worry about their farms. Vast tracts of paddy fields and areca plantations have been flooded.

Incessant rains continued to lash Kodagu throwing life out of gear. Many rivulets were flowing above the danger mark and roads connecting Madikeri with Bhagamandala and Napoklu were submerged leading to suspension of vehicular movement.

Rainfall in excess of 100 mm during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. of Sunday has been recorded across many measuring stations in the district, keeping the local authorities on their toes to clear the road blocks created by falling trees.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), 225 mm of rainfall was recorded at Galibeedu GP in Madikeri taluk and an orange alert has been declared in Kodagu till 8.30 a.m. on Monday.

With water flow into the Krishna and its tributaries continuing to stay beyond the rate of 75,000 cusecs on Sunday too, district administrations in the basin areas of North Karnataka are keeping an eye on the water levels and are ready with contingency plans. The inflow into Almatti dam reduced a bit on Sunday and stood at the rate of 75,207 cusecs against 78,390 cusecs on Saturday. The outflow was zero on Saturday, but on Sunday the officials have begun releasing water from the dam.

Tourists at the Honnammana Halla waterfalls at Bababudangiri near Chikkamagaluru on Sunday; (right) personnel of the 10 Battalion NDRF Charlie Company removing a giant tree that got washed away and was blocking the Kindi check dam in Madikeri. • PTI AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Murmu meets BJP and JD(S) leaders in State

NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu being greeted by JD(S) president H.D. Deve Gowda and his family members at his residence in Bengaluru on Sunday.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A week after Opposition Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha visited Bengaluru, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu met BJP and JD(S) leaders in the city seeking their support in the ensuing election.

Ms. Murmu participated in a meeting of BJP legislators and MPs in the evening. The BJP meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, was also attended by former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and Jagadish Shettar, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel and a host of Ministers.

The BJP has 122 legislators, 25 Lok Sabha members, and six Rajya Sabha members who are eligible to vote in the Presidential elections. The JD(S) has 32 legislators, one Lok Sabha and one Rajya Sabha member who can vote.

The BJP sources said that Ms. Murmu, who started her speech in Kannada, pointed at the contribution of Sangolli Rayanna, Basavanna, Kittur Rani Chennamma, and Sir M. Visveswaraya for the land, and historical contribution of Rashtrakutas, Kadamba, Chalukyas, Vijayanagar and Mysuru Wadiyar dynasties. Tracing her growth from Mayurbani in Odisha and later professional and political growth, Ms. Murmu sought votes from the legislators and MPs.

Later, the NDA Presidential candidate also met former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and JD(S) leaders at his residence. The JD(S) sources said the meeting was fixed only after her arrival in Bengaluru. "It is a pride that a person from a tribal community is the candidate and we feel it is better to support her," JD(S) Parliamentary Board Chairman H.K. Kumaraswamy told presspersons.

KRS nearing full reservoir level

Inflow into the dam continues to be high owing to rain in Kodagu district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Continuing heavy rainfall in Kodagu and the entire catchment area of the Cauvery and its tributaries has led to an increase in the rate of inflow into the reservoirs across the river.

The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam in Srirangapatana taluk is expected to attain its full reservoir level (FRL) of 124.8 feet in due course. The rate of inflow into the dam at 6 p.m. on Sunday was 30,216 cusecs and the water level was 123.1 feet and inching close to the FRL.

Though not rare, the dam is set to attain FRL as early as in the second week of July if the rate of inflow is sustained for the next couple of days. In contrast, the reservoir level on the same day last year was 88.74 feet.

Meanwhile, the outflow from the KRS will be stepped up and it could increase and the rate of discharge could be anywhere between 25,000 cusecs to 75,000 cusecs. People living in the downstream of the dam along the riverbanks have been asked to relocate to safer places. The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary near Srirangapatna continues to be open to tourists but boating facility has been suspended due to rise in the water levels.

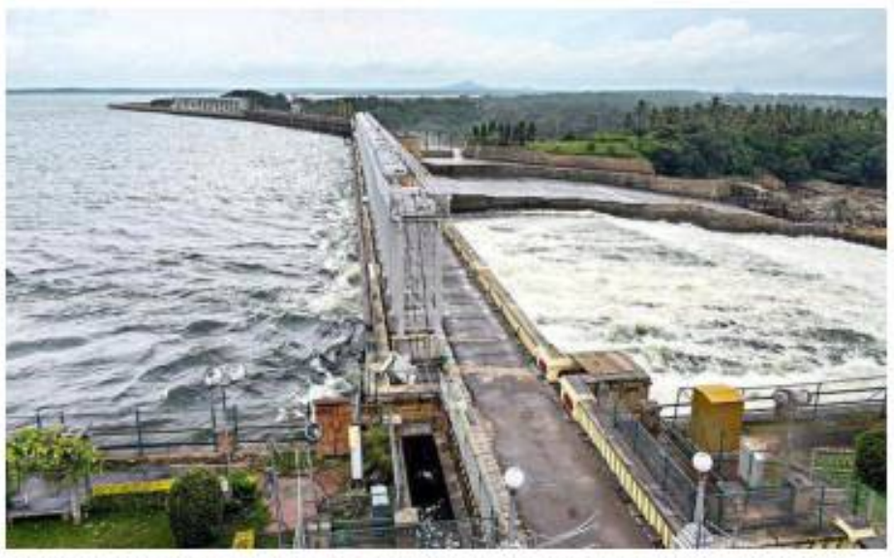
The inflow into the KRS in the days ahead will further increase as the Hemavati reservoir in Goruru in Hassan district is in the upstream, and is also fast filling up. The reservoir level was 2,918.38 feet on Sunday against the FRL of 2,922 feet and the inflow was at the rate of 15,723 cusecs.

Due to continuing rains in Kodagu, the inflow into the Harangi reservoir near Kushalnagar was at the rate of 16,017 cusecs at 6 a.m. on Sunday and is expected to increase further. The outflow had been stepped up and the discharge was at the rate of 14,803 cusecs.

The outflow from both the Harangi and the Hemavathi reservoirs coupled with the increase in yield in the Cauvery due to heavy rains in Bhagamandala, Talacauvery and other regions, will augment the inflow to the KRS.

Meanwhile, the inflow into the Kabini dam is also high as the catchment area of the river Kapila or Kabini, which is in Wayanad district of Kerala, is receiving rains.

The inflow into the Kabini reservoir at H.D. Kote was at the rate of 18,303 cusecs and the outflow has been restricted to 7,458 cusecs. The water level was 2,282.12 feet against the FRL of 2,284 feet. But the dam authorities maintain a buffer of at least 2 feet during monsoon for safety reasons.



The rate of inflow into the Krishnaraja Sagar at 6 p.m. on Sunday was at the rate of 30,216 cusecs and the water level was 123.1 feet; (below) boating has been suspended at the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary owing to heavy outflow from the KRS. • PTI AND M.A. SRIRAM

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Too late a realisation

Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Minister V. Sunil Kumar (*in picture*) took nearly six months to realise that a portion of Bengaluru-Mangaluru National Highway-75 in Sakleshpur taluk was non-motorable.

By the time he understood the reality and directed the NHAI along with Public Works Minister C.C. Patil to restore the road, the rain was pounding the ghat stretch and it was impossible to restore the road. During the inauguration of his office in Mangaluru in January, a journalist drew Mr. Kumar's attention to the pathetic condition of NH-75 between Sakleshpur and Maranahalli, ahead of Shiradi Ghat. When the scribe was explaining to the Minister its impact on trade and commerce, tourism and other sectors, the Minister in his characteristically dismissive style said he will "look into the matter." *The Hindu* and other publications had been frequently publishing reports on the deteriorated state of the highway stretch. Yet, neither NHAI nor the State government responded. Once the rains started, the stretch became completely non-motorable.

Last week, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Patil convened a meeting of NHAI officials and warned them to restore the road within a fortnight. The million dollar question is the mode of restoration when rains are pounding the ghat stretch.

List of BJP 'dynasties'

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued to attack the Opposition-ruled States as "dynasts" and "family-based" governments, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy listed 16 family dynasties in the Karnataka unit of the BJP. He lashed out at the BJP leaders for repeatedly calling the JD(S) a dynastic party.

Knowing well the sum and substance of BJP's Mission Dakshin, the JD(S) leader said everyone understands why Mr. Modi holds Yoga event in Mysuru and the party's conclave in Hyderabad. Hitting out at the BJP leaders, he listed dynastic families, including former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa and sons, MLA Ravi Subramanya and his nephew Tejaswi Surya, and Industries Minister Murgesh Nirani and his brother Hanumath Nirani. He also named the Jarkiholi brothers and Reddy brothers.

"Should I expose the nation-wide family politics in the BJP? One can write 'Parivarakoti' while talking about family politics in States ruled by you," Mr. Kumaraswamy said.

ANIL KUMAR SASTRY
NAGESH PRABHU

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 11, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained** | Twitter's petition on Section 69A of the IT Act bit.ly/twitter69a
- **Explained** | The ongoing dialogue between Pakistan and TTP bit.ly/pakistanttp
- **Know your English** | Born with a silver spoon bit.ly/kyespoon

Online exclusives

- **Watch** | The life and career of Shinzo Abe bit.ly/shinzabe
- **In Frames** | Mountain pilgrimage bit.ly/framesmount
- **Explained** | The Aarey conundrum bit.ly/aareymount
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

BJP is pro-rich: Kumaraswamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party government of looting people's money in the name of development, former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday warned that if poor people are harassed, then a Sri Lanka kind of response will be seen here too. Addressing the 'janata mitra' programme of the party at Dasarahalli and Abbigere here in Bengaluru, he accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being pro-rich.

Kateel calls on Yediyurappa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Sunday met former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who recently returned from a foreign trip.

Both the leaders are learnt to have discussed various issues during the meeting that took place at Mr. Yediyurappa's residence in Bengaluru.

The meeting is being described as a courtesy call.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN MEMORIAM

N. JAYARAMAN
(ADVOCATE)
D.O.D - 11TH JULY 2018

THOUGH YOU ARE NO LONGER WITH US OUR MEMORIES NEVER FADE AWAY.

NOTHING HAS CHANGED AS WE KNOW YOU ARE ALWAYS THERE TO GUIDE US.

N.JAYARAMAN ASSOCIATE
K.VENKATRAMANI (ADVOCATE)
98867 81410

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through e-procurement portal)

No. CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/2823-824 Date: 07-07-2022

BESCOM invites Tenders for **Providing electrical infrastructure to regularized Un authorized IP sets by extending 11KV lines, erection of 25KVA 4 star rated Distribution Transformers and extension of LT line 3 phase 4 wire on Total Turnkey basis on Percentage Quoting Basis in the following tender enquiries.**

Sl.	Enq. No's	Name of the Sub Division
1	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-001	Chitradurga Urban
2	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-002	Molakalmuru
3	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-003	Tumkur CSD-1
4	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-004	Tumkur CSD-2 (Reserved for SC)
5	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-005	Yediyur
6	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-006	Madhugiri
7	CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-007	Kodigenahalli

Availability of Bid documents : 13.07.2022 after 12:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for bid submission :** 12.08.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids :** 16.08.2022 at 11:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting :** 20.07.2022 at 11:00 Hrs. **Last date for submission of Queries :** 23.07.2022 before 17:00 Hrs. **Venue :** Chief Engineer office, BESCOM, Opp. RTO office, Turuvanur Road, Chitradurga - 577501.
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000 +91-8022631200 E-mail: support@ihelpdsk.com** Aspiring bidders need to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele)., O & M Zone, Chitradurga.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No.: MESCOM-PROC/PURC/93/2022-PROC/I/20666/2022 Date: 01.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM invites tender for manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2022-23/IND832	Polymeric type 10KV 5kA Lightning Arrester with Ground Disconnector	3,000 Sets (9,000 Nos)

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.07.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph.: 080-25191039
E-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No.: BMRCL/O&M/CSW/L1/01/2022-23 Date: 05.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Renovation of Dormitory for Security Department Office at Swami Vivekananda Road".** Estimated Cost: **Rs. 18.22 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 45,556/-.** Sale period of tender documents through online: **11.07.2022 to 25.07.2022 (Till Midnight).** Date & time for submission of tender: **26.07.2022 (from 11.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs).** Date & time for opening of tender: **26.07.2022 (at 15.30 hrs).** Cost of tender document: **Rs. 2,360/-.** Completion period: **01 month.** Tender can be downloaded from BMRCL website. For more information visit **http://tender.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

Water level in Idukki dam rising

A CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

Water level in the Idukki reservoir has reached 2,352.66 ft on Sunday. The water level on the corresponding day last year was 2,353.26 ft. The water level has been rising since the rain intensified last week. There is a live storage of 48.6% now. Power generation at the Moolamattom Power House remained at a low of 2.98 mu (million unit). The blue alert level level is 2,365 ft, orange alert level at 2,371 ft and the red alert level at 2,372 ft.

Meanwhile, the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam on Sunday was 128.2 ft. The maximum water level is 142 ft. The Periyar area on Saturday received a rainfall of 17 mm while Thekkady received a rainfall of 15 mm.

Godavari in spate, flood warning issued

Incessant rain in north Telangana; huge inflows from the catchment areas in Maharashtra

P. SRIDHAR
JAYASHANKAR-BHUPALAPALLE/BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDEM

The Godavari and its tributaries were in spate due to persistent huge inflows from the catchment areas in neighbouring Maharashtra even as north Telangana districts witnessed incessant rain for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

As heavy flood reached the Medigadda (Lakshmi) barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district from the reservoirs upstream, about 8.83 lakh cusecs of excess water was released downstream through 75 crest gates of the barrage.

With increasing inflows from the catchment areas of both the Godavari and the Pranahita rivers, outflow from the Medigadda barrage was expected to reach 10 lakh cusecs late on Sunday night, official sources said. In Mulugu district, authorities issued the first flood warning in Eturunagaram Agency mandal as the Godavari crossed 14.83 metres, sources said.

Helping hand: A crane pulling out a bus stuck in slush abutting the canal of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following the discharge of a huge volume of flood water, the water level in the river at Bhadrachalam in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district reached 39 feet, just four feet short of the first flood warning level of 43 feet, at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Sources said the Godavari may cross the first flood warning level at the temple town around Sunday midnight and rise steadily on Monday with an expected inflow of 12 lakh cusecs.

Meanwhile, a private tourist bus on its way to Kaleshwaram from Warangal got stuck in slush abutting the gravity canal of KLIS near the pilgrimage centre in Mahadevpur mandal on Sunday afternoon. Local police guided the passengers to safety, sources added. The bus was pulled out using a crane.

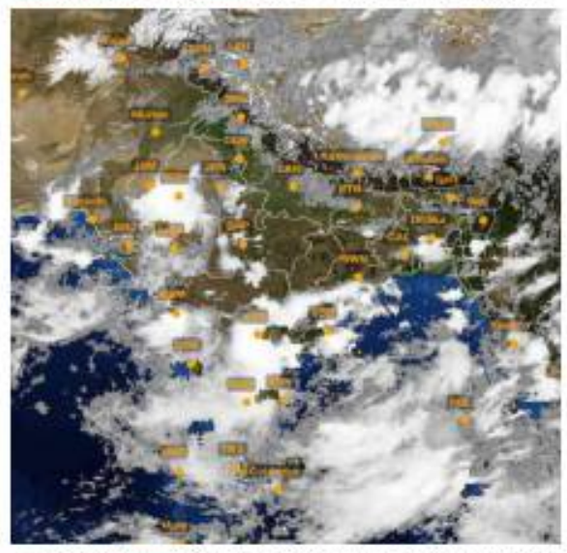
Educational institutions to be shut for three days

HYDERABAD

Telangana State government has declared a three-day holiday for all educational institutions, right from schools to universities, in view of widespread, incessant rains. The holidays from July 11 to 13 will apply to technical as well as non-technical courses, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao told a media conference after a review meeting to discuss the rain situation. He said the entire government machinery was kept on high alert.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Telangana and Coastal Karnataka, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh; heavy rainfall at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	35.1	27.1	Kozhikode	27.0	25.4	23.5
Ahmedabad	9.0	33.0	26.3	Kurnool	10.0	27.0	22.9
Aizawl	24.0	28.8	21.0	Lucknow	–	36.2	28.7
Allahabad	–	39.0	29.0	Madurai	–	35.7	26.2
Bengaluru	15.0	25.4	20.0	Mangaluru	122.2	25.9	22.8
Bhopal	132.4	31.9	22.0	Mumbai	1.0	29.5	27.0
Bhubaneswar	8.0	33.3	25.5	Mysuru	12.0	27.6	19.0
Chandigarh	63.4	31.7	24.9	New Delhi	–	35.3	26.0
Chennai	17.0	33.5	23.3	Patna	–	37.0	28.3
Coimbatore	1.0	28.0	22.2	Port Blair	12.0	28.5	24.1
Dehradun	52.0	25.8	22.1	Puducherry	–	33.6	25.9
Gangtok	–	28.5	20.2	Pune	34.0	25.3	22.0
Goa	14.0	28.0	24.0	Raipur	11.0	33.5	25.6
Guwahati	–	36.4	27.7	Ranchi	14.0	31.6	22.5
Hubballi	–	25.0	21.0	Shillong	11.0	25.6	17.9
Hyderabad	39.0	24.0	20.4	Shimla	–	26.5	20.0
Imphal	–	31.7	22.5	Srinagar	0.8	27.0	20.9
Jaipur	5.0	35.4	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	29.7	23.9
Kochi	8.0	26.8	24.2	Tiruchi	–	32.7	26.5
Kohima	5.0	27.4	17.2	Vijayawada	16.0	27.8	23.4
Kolkata	0.4	33.3	27.5	Visakhapatnam	0.3	30.8	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	.25	78	...64	...92	...
Bengaluru	...8	.21	20	...76	...97	...
Chennai	...4	.14	98	...18	...38	...
Delhi	.21	.53	92	...68	.102	...
Hyderabad	.11	...3	24	...46	...59	...
Kolkata	...9	.23	27	...20	...59	...
Lucknow	.11	.68	49	...56	...77	...
Mumbai	108	...–	.2	...27	...–	...
Pune	...–	.17	74	...32	...28	...
Visakhapatnam	.15	.39	18	...28	...53	...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 153 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 8

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bengaluru's Jawa Yezdi bike festival draws a huge crowd

This year, the fest followed a theme of adventure

OLIVIA DEBROY
BENGALURU

Hundreds of Jawa and Yezdi bike enthusiasts gathered for their annual festival and went down an adventurous nostalgic lane in the city on Sunday, to mark the 20th International Jawa Yezdi Day, which falls every year on the second Sunday in July.

"The bikes here are the centre of attraction and you can see there are over 750 Jawa and Yezdi bikes. We also got some special and very rare bikes displayed on one side of the ground which people can admire," said Brian A., president and co-founder, Bangalore Jawa Yezdi Motorcycle Club (BJYMC), the organiser of the event.

Exhibits at the 20th International Jawa Yezdi Day in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Between 1960 and 1996, bikes from Jawa and Yezdi were produced in India. The 250cc two-stroke bikes were well-liked by youngsters due to their dependability and affordable maintenance requirements. In 1996, their production was stopped at the Ideal Jawa factory in Mysore. The Jawa, the Jawa 42, and the Perak are the three vehicles that Mahindra-owned Classic Legends unveiled in 2018 after reviving the Jawa and Yezdi brand.

BJYMC has been organising this event since 2008, driving a record number of bikers to gather and celebrate the occasion. Within this community a lot of solutions and ideas have come up to keep the classic bikes on the road after their production was stopped.

"We have been celebrating this event every year to gather all the Jawa and Yezdi riders from different parts of the nation and it is one of the biggest Jawa festivals in Asia," Mr. Brian said.

This year, the fest followed a theme of adventure and offered a holistic experience to the bikers right from the time they entered the venue by setting up adventure tracks. Along with games, clothing, food, and awareness stalls, a unique exhibition of rare bikes made in India and overseas, including 50cc Colt, 125cc Perak, racing bikes, and the remarkable 350cc twins, was set up for the audience.

"Biking is a mode of adventure, a break from routine and also relaxation for me. It started because I own my dad's 1984 Ideal model bike and this has been my inspiration to get into biking. It definitely helps you to take yourself off and explore new places and meet new people," said Swaroop Mohan, a member of BJYMC.

The event saw mammoth participation of riders from Mangalore (MJYMC), Udupi (UJYMC), Hoskote (HJYMC), Kodagu (KJYMC), Cochin (CJYMC), and freedom riders from Sangli, Maharashtra.

Dravidian is a geographical division, not racial: T.N. Governor

'The British created the false history'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VELLORE

Blaming the British for creating a "false history" as part of their divide-and-rule policy, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Sunday contended that the concept of Aryans and Dravidians was mainly a geographical, rather than racial, division. But the British made it racial to suit their needs.

Speaking at a function to mark the 216th year of Vellore Sepoy Uprising, also known as Sepoy Mutiny, he said that according to ancient literature and historical records, the northern parts of the Vindhya Range were known for the settlements of Aryans and the areas to the south, which covers the modern-day Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and parts of Odisha, were known as the Dravidian land.

"It is a false history, created by the British as part of their divide-and-rule policy, that Dravidian is a race. This was evident from the fact that when they [the British] left, India had 600 independent countries, apart from Pakistan, within it in 1947," he said. The Governor said that after independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Union Home Minister, brought all provinces and States under one Union.

The Governor paying homage at the Sepoy Mutiny Memorial Pillar on Sunday. • C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

However, many divisions, based on caste and tribe, had occurred since then, resulting in an imbalanced growth. Even in progressive States like Tamil Nadu, there were variations in growth among different communities. Such a problem, he said, could be resolved only with the one-nation concept.

"Age-old problems like poverty, illiteracy and power supply still persist since independence. Because we don't address these problems in totality. In other words, we have to work like a family," he said.

The Governor stressed the need to cherish the sacrifices made by martyrs and freedom fighters. They were forgotten for years after independence.

However, steps had been taken to remember their contributions to the freedom struggle. "A nation cannot be great if it is ungrateful to the sacrifices made by its freedom fighters for the country's independence," he said.

Tracing the origin of the Sepoy Mutiny, the Governor said the history penned by the British had said the reason for the revolt was a dress code that was opposed by the native soldiers. That interpretation was wrong because any difference over the dress code could have been resolved by the army with its in-built mechanism. Proper research had to be done to find the actual reasons, he added.

All set for boat race in Kerala tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA

After a pandemic-induced gap of two years, famed boat races are all set for a roaring return in Kerala, beginning with the *Champakulam Moolam* Boat Race on Tuesday.

As many as nine *chundan vallams* [snakeboats] will make a splash to the accompaniment of *Vanchipattu* and beating of drums on the Pamba river at Champakulam in the afternoon as they vie for the *Raja Pramukhan Trophy*. Officials of the *Moolam* Boat Race Committee said that arrangements for the race were nearing completion.

KSDMA says all Amarnath yatris from Karnataka are safe

Centre gets 57 calls from relatives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In two days after the disaster due to cloudburst near Amarnath cave, the State Emergency Operation Centre has so far received 57 calls from the relatives of the pilgrims.

No pilgrim from Karnataka has been reported injured or dead in the disaster and all the pilgrims are safe, a release from the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) stated.

Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority also said that no new calls have been received at the centre to enquire about the well being of the pilgrims since 8.30 p.m. on Saturday.

The Centre is also in touch with the pilgrims groups and all of them are safe.

The Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority Commissioner Manoj Ranjan said that with all efforts being made to restore the yatra by the government agencies, it was up to the pilgrims to continue with the yatra or return.

There are around 250 pilgrims from the State who are currently undertaking the Amarnath yatra, and they belong to Ramanagaram, Bengaluru Rural and Urban districts, Mandya, Shivamogga and Dakshina Kannada districts.

Third phase of Bandi's padayatra from Aug. 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

With the grand success of the recently-concluded BJP national executive meeting and public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP State unit has decided to be more aggressive in Telangana. An action plan has been charted out in this direction.

State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar would embark on the third phase of his padayatra from August 2. This was decided at the core committee meeting of the party held on Sunday. The route map and other details will be finalised.

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3	Chikbanavara - Hassan Section : Proposed slope protection works on cutting by removing loose bounders from Km. 80/000 - 160/000 in SSE/P.Way/Channarayapatna Section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period which ever is later.	Rs. 91,93,223/-
4	Chikbanavara - Hassan Section : Proposed slope protection and Standard RCC Catch water drain works in cutting from Km. 23/800-24/400, 32/700-33/300, 52/200-53/000, 64/000-65/700 & 73/440-74/244 in SSE/P.Way/ Kunigal Section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period which ever is later.	Rs. 2,27,94,463/-
5	Chikbanavara - Hassan Section : Proposed slope protection works on cutting by removing earth and boulders from Km. 1/200-80/000 in SSE/P.Way/Kunigal Section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period which ever is later.	Rs. 51,58,749/-

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Sl.No	Description	Details		
1	Name of work	Electrical renovation works in CSG Lab area (Room No 15B-308, & 309), 'B' wing, Third floor, INSAT Building, URSC Campus, Bengaluru-17	Electrical modification works for OILS Lab- Room No 08A-304 & computer room 08A-305 located at 3rd Floor, Main Building, URSC Campus, Bengaluru-17.	Electrical works for providing alternate source for distribution of UPS power at IBM Server room at 5th floor, CIG & 6th floor INSAT Building, URSC Campus, Bengaluru-17
2	E-Tender Notice No.	ETN No.: URSC/C&MG/E/TN-06/2022-23 Dtd:07.07.2022	ETN No.: URSC/C&MG/E/TN-07/2022-23 Dtd:07.07.2022	ETN No.: URSC/C&MG/E/TN-08/2022-23 Dtd:07.07.2022
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 6,60,300.00	₹ 6,73,500.00	₹ 23.23 Lakhs
4	Tender Document details	E-Tender	E-Tender	E-Tender
5	Period of completion	Three (03) Months	Two (02) Months	Four (04) Months
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 13,206.00/-	₹ 13,470.00/-	₹ 46,460.00/-
7	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10.30 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 20.07.2022	From 10.30 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 20.07.2022	From 10.30 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 25.07.2022
8	Bid clarification	From 11.00 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 21.07.2022	From 11.00 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 21.07.2022	From 11.00 hrs. on 11.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 26.07.2022
9	Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 22.07.2022	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 22.07.2022	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 27.07.2022
10	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 25.07.2022	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 25.07.2022	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 29.07.2022
11	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs. on 25.07.2022	After 14.30 hrs. on 25.07.2022	After 14.30 hrs. on 29.07.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO
Sd/-, Group Director, C&MG

The uprising

A formal process should bring in change in Sri Lanka, and not a public uprising

Public wrath is paving the way for momentous changes in Sri Lanka. The ongoing protests against the precipitous fall in the island nation's economic fortunes have reached a crescendo. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, whose secretariat was overrun by thousands of people and his official residence occupied by boisterous protesters, and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose private residence was set ablaze, have both expressed readiness to resign. Mr. Rajapaksa, the main target of the people's unbridled anger, has conveyed his willingness to resign on July 13, while Mr. Wickremesinghe is awaiting an alternative all-party government to be ready to take over before he steps down. It is now fairly clear that the people have not been pacified by the formation of a new regime under Mr. Wickremesinghe. The boiling over of public anger on July 9 indicates their utter dissatisfaction with his government's efforts to address their day-to-day problems. There were questions about Mr. Wickremesinghe's political legitimacy to hold the office, given that he belongs to a party with no elected representative in the legislature and he himself being a nominee based on its vote percentage. However, despite the arrival of some overseas aid and commencement of a process for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, there has been no significant relief for the people, especially the poor and the vulnerable.

The next few days are crucial for the country, as it will show whether the political class can rise above its differences and put in place an alternative regime that can steer the country towards economic recovery. Under the country's Constitution, the Prime Minister and then the Speaker of Parliament are in line to act as President if the highest office falls vacant. The way out seems to be that the current Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, takes over as President so that, within 30 days, Parliament can elect a new President by a secret ballot. However, these moves will be contingent on the resignations actually materialising. Any delay in creating conditions for the emergence of an alternative may not go down well with the public, and may lead to more unsavoury incidents. The occupants of the two main offices will have to make their decisions early so that the country's transition to a stable regime can be easy. It is possible to argue that mere regime change may redound to nobody's benefit, will achieve nothing more than mollifying the masses for now, and will not ease the economic travails of the people. However, it is always better that a formal process is set in motion to effectuate change than it being left to the exigencies of a public uprising. It will also impart some much-needed political legitimacy to whoever will emerge as President and Prime Minister and steer the country through troubled times. The country cannot afford a fresh election now; nor can it be without a leadership.

A death unforetold

Assassination of Abe could have far-reaching consequences for the Japanese psyche

Shinzo Abe was a popular, even if divisive, politician who was no stranger to controversies. But he was also one of the most consequentialist leaders of post-war Japan. Since his rise to power in 2006 until his tragic assassination last week, he remained a tall presence in Japan's politics and his views reshaped the country's global profile. When he became Prime Minister for the second time in 2012, Japan's economy was in recession. A year earlier, an earthquake and tsunami had wreaked havoc, killing up to 20,000 people. Its U.S.-reliant foreign and pacifist defence policies faced a new challenge with the rapid rise of China. Abe believed that Japan should first rebuild its economy if it wanted to address other challenges. His economic programme with "three arrows" – monetary easing, higher fiscal spending and liberalisation – or "Abenomics", helped Japan come out of recession. His government oversaw the post-quake reconstruction, and in foreign policy he adopted a more hawkish line that was unapologetic of Japan's violent imperial past. He wanted to rewrite the country's U.S.-drafted post-war pacifist Constitution to allow the military to take a bigger role in national security. In 2013, as Prime Minister, he visited the Yasukuni Shrine, a controversial memorial for Japan's war dead, including its war criminals. These actions triggered criticisms in the region, but at home, Abe used them to reshape the national security debate.

Abe may not have succeeded in restoring Japan's economic superpower status while his attempts to rewrite the Constitution met with strong opposition from sections of the political class and society for whom memories of its past militarism are still afresh. But Abe left a lasting imprint on its security thinking, spending more on defence (breaking the long-held cap of 1%). Having realised the limits of Japan's power in meeting regional challenges, he advocated a deeper relationship with the U.S. and pushed for a regional response to China's rise. He was one of the strongest advocates of the Quad, and by the time he left power in 2020, the Quad had been revitalised. In a country where talks about a stronger defence policy were considered taboo, Abe mainstreamed discussions for a stronger defence doctrine and even called for a nuclear sharing agreement with the U.S. He remained an influential figure in national politics. His assassination could have consequences for the Japanese psyche. Gun violence and political assassinations may have been rare in contemporary Japan, but it was not so during the pre-war period. No Japanese politician would like that chaos to be back. The law enforcement authorities should not only bring the facts about the assassination to the public but also make sure that such tragic events do not take place.

Decoding the rebellion in the Shiv Sena

Material factors may have played a key role, but the fact is that the Thackerays do face a challenge in reviving the party

SANJAY PATIL

The rebellion by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde recently, with 40 Members of the Legislative Assembly, against Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and his Maha Vikas Aghadi government, and Mr. Shinde's success, subsequently, in getting hold of the chief ministerial position in Maharashtra with the help of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is an event that has created a huge storm in Maharashtra's political landscape. It is clear that the magnitude of the rebellion is the biggest the Shiv Sena has ever seen since its inception in 1966.

The vertical split in the party is much bigger in comparison with what happened when the former party leaders, Chhagan Bhujbal, Narayan Rane and Raj Thackeray, left in the past. This time it does not seem to be the result of mere internal skirmishes. It has raised questions about the strength and the appeal of the Shiv Sena under Uddhav Thackeray, with doubts being raised about his leadership and the party's style of functioning ever since he took over the party's reins. Interestingly, it has also happened at a time when the Shiv Sena was in power (unlike the previous rebellions), which indicates the gravity of discontent among party leaders.

The roots

Any analysis of the Shiv Sena's successes, failures and challenges needs to start with an understanding of its nature and composition. While the movement to 'fight for the sons of soil' culminated in the formation of an electoral party called the Shiv Sena, the Sena has always grown since its inception at both levels – gaining strength from its appeal as a movement and multiplying power through its electoral success. Across Maharashtra, and in the Mumbai-Thane belt in particular, it is the movement aspect of the Sena, with its grass-roots presence through shakhas (branches) that has immensely helped the organisation in garnering support and strengthening it. The rebellion by Mr. Shinde can be seen as an outcome of a threat to the very idea and appeal of the Shiv Sena, which thrives on several material and non-material factors.

A key factor

It can be argued that material factors played a more crucial role in triggering the rebellion. The looming threat of action by central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seems to be a key reason for many within the Sena to jump ship when they got an opportunity. Two of the MLAs to join the Shinde camp the first happen to be Pratap Sarnaik and Yamini Jadhav. While Mr. Sarnaik was embroiled in an investigation by the ED in connection with a ₹175 crore money laundering case, Yashwant Jadhav, Ms. Jadhav's husband and the four-term standing committee chairperson in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), was summoned recently by the ED in a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violation case.

Most Sena leaders of today have had similar career trajectories as they became a nobody to a local somebody through the Sena's organisational network and were gradually elevated within the party. In the process, they were also deeply embedded in the local networks of brokerage and patronage that is institutionalised through its grass-roots organisational structure. Most Sena leaders also saw a higher rent-seeking possibility after the party gained power in 2019 (in an unconventional alliance by parting ways with the BJP and joining hands with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, or the NCP). However, they were disappointed as they had to confront the alliance partners – the NCP held two key portfolios, Finance and Home – at each point.

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Similarly, Mr. Uddhav and his son, Aaditya Thackeray's approach of bringing in centralisation in the decision-making processes of the party for the last few years proved to be a major hurdle before the aspirations of these leaders who thrive on multiplying power through formal and informal networks. The BJP's growing political strength, its control over financial resources and hold over central agencies seem to have played a crucial reason why many leaders have joined the Sena rebel camp.

A transformation

On the other hand, the non-material factors behind the Sena's popularity – such as charisma around the position of the Sena chief and the appeal for its Hindutva – seem to have undergone a significant transformation after the entry of Mr. Uddhav, and, subsequently, Mr. Aaditya. Mr. Uddhav's mellow personality, the absence of aggression in his demeanour and the resultant softening of the Sena's ideology, which thrives on street politics, violence and direct action, had already created unrest among traditional Sena leaders and voters.

There were also complaints of him not being an accessible leader unlike his father and Sena founder, Bal Thackeray who often believed in instant justice. The entry of Mr. Aaditya and his inner circle of young, educated, Ivy League consultants further widened this gap between the old and the new Sena, creating a sense of alienation among its ardent followers. Senior leaders felt they were sidelined in the decision-making process within the party and the government. The success of Narendra Modi in 2014 and the BJP's attempts to make him a Hindutva icon – an appeal that earlier rested with Bal Thackeray, who was the undisputed *Hinduhridaysamrat* – seems to have been the ultimate nail in the coffin.

While Mr. Uddhav and Mr. Aaditya struggle to retain the original appeal of the Shiv Sena, it cannot be assumed that the biggest vertical split in the party and the resulting questions raised on the new leadership are enough to break up a party whose appeal is way beyond electoral politics. It is important to see how the Thackerays capitalise on the factors that might aid their attempts to revive the movement and the party. The Sena's *shakhas*, which are seen as its nervous system, can play a crucial role in ensuring that the party picks up the threads from the crisis and rebuilds itself. At the local level, Sena workers still have their loyalty towards the chair that represents their idol, Bal Thackeray; it is now up to Mr. Uddhav to capitalise on this respect and popularity that the Thackeray brand still commands.

While Uddhav Thackeray's personality and leadership were under scrutiny after he took over the reins of the Shiv Sena during the 1990s, it is the same style that made him a popular Chief Minister in Maharashtra. His mature approach of handling the COVID-19 pandemic and his efforts to reach out to the people during some of the toughest times of over two years won him a huge fan following across age groups tired of the speeches and promises of politicians. Similarly, Aaditya Thackeray's approach in handling issues of governance – education, the environment and health to name a few have created a sympathy wave for him even in the liberal-progressive circles which were otherwise critical of the Shiv Sena's divisive politics.

Mr. Shinde's rebellion and the resultant dent in the Sena's clout and popularity in Maharashtra is a major setback to the organisation – as a party and a movement. It also seems like a well-orchestrated attempt by the BJP and the Shinde group to not only topple the government but also raise questions about the Sena's current appeal, the leadership of the Thackerays and to settle scores with the Sena which was critical of the party's radical Hindutva and vendetta politics.

Revival, challenges

How far and long the journey it will take the Sena to revive will be clear in the coming months, especially before the upcoming elections to local bodies including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. But what is clear is that if the Sena has to work towards its revival, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray needs to capitalise on the sympathy for its new-found appeal and reinvigorate the grass-root *sainik* who is the backbone of the idea of the Sena. In most regions of the State (especially in mofussil areas), the party is dependent on its local leaders and their network of patronage for elections. Considering the rebellion now which spans the State, there is an unprecedented challenge to revive the party especially in these regions. The party would have to use its political prudence and also needs to have a long-term programme to strengthen and restructure its organisation to ensure that the rebellion does not trigger more Sainiks to part ways.

Sanjay Patil works at the University of Mumbai and has been chronicling the Shiv Sena's journey for the last 10 years

What ails the current approach to Ayurveda

Valuable observations on health need to be delinked from outdated theories, implausible conjectures and superstitions

G.L. KRISHNA

Ayurveda, India's traditional medicine, has been in practice for close to three millennia. Even today, this ancient system serves the health-care needs of millions of Indians. The adaptation of a traditional knowledge-system for current use comes with its challenges, which, if dealt with lackadaisically, can endanger the welfare of its users. A few challenges that the Ayurveda establishment has for long failed to skilfully address are discussed here.

Speculations versus facts

Ayurveda's ancient treatises, for obvious reasons, cannot be expected to retain relevance in their entirety. They contain useful portions alongside obsolete ones. Therefore, a dispassionate sifting through their contents is a prerequisite for their prudent practical use. Valuable observations relating to health promotion and illness management need to be carefully sifted from outdated theories, implausible conjectures, and socio-religious superstitions.

An example would make this point clear. While documenting its observations on the benefits of physical exercise, an Ayurveda classic notes: "A sense of ease, improved fitness, easy digestion, ideal body-weight, and handsomeness of bodily features are the benefits that would accrue from regular exercise." These observations are as valid today as they were 1,500 years ago when they were first documented. But, such continued validity cannot be claimed for the physiological and pathological conjectures the same text contains.

On urine formation, for instance, the text posits that tiny ducts from the intestines carry urine to fill the bladder. This simplistic scheme of urine formation has no role for the kidneys at all. Needless to say, this very outdated idea can have no place in current medical education except as an anecdote from history. Placing such conjectural ideas side by side with modern physiology and implicitly equalising the truth value of both is a serious malaise that has been plaguing the current approach to Ayurveda. Teachers of Ayurveda physiology have the unenviable job of constantly grappling with the difficulty of reconciling ancient speculations with established scientific facts.

Factors responsible

Two main factors – one theoretical and the other epistemological – have led to this sad situation. The *tridosha* theory of Ayurveda is a rough-and-ready model that the ancients devised to systematise their medical experience. Clinical features of illnesses and therapeutic measures to manage them were all classified on the basis of this heuristic model. In the absence of a cogent understanding of the biological processes underlying health and illness, speculations on these topics were also woven around the same model. The theory thus has aspects that are heuristically tenable alongside those that are merely conjectural. Recasting the theory in a way that retains the relevant aspects while

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jettisoning the obsolete parts is a priority area in Ayurvedic research. The research centres under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) have remained oblivious to this important work and their omissions have resulted in retaining the theory, lock, stock, and barrel. Consequently, outdated pathophysiological conjectures have become fossilised in the current approach to the subject.

The other factor that has been instrumental in choking the renewal of Ayurveda is the widespread belief among its academics that ancient texts, by virtue of their being divined by sages in deep yogic states, retain timeless relevance. This notion of epistemic superiority has its roots in the hugely influential memorandum on the *Science and Art of Indian Medicine* authored by G. Srinivasa Murti. The memorandum formed part of two reports: of the Usman Committee (1923) and later, of the Chopra Committee (1948). The flawed idea, antithetical to the *yukti-vyapashraya* (reason-based) character of classical ayurveda, has kept the field from demystifying its theories and achieving the reforms long overdue. In short, the belief in epistemic superiority has dethroned ancient medical writings from being revisable scientific treatises into being dogmatic scriptures.

A century ago, P.S. Varier of the Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal noted that the "*Sareerasthana* (section on body structure and function in the Ayurvedic classics) must firstly be revised and made clearer and the remaining parts must be suited to it (*sic*). Secondly, after this, the other important works should also be corrected. Necessary additions must be made either by translations or by collaboration with experts in portions still deficient." Ironically, Varier's submission also forms part of the Usman Committee report alluded to earlier. His suggestions though appear to have fallen on deaf ears. More recently, scholars such as Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya and Priyavrat Sharma have also drawn attention to the myth of epistemic superiority that has rendered Ayurveda texts non-revisable. But the Ayurveda establishment and its research centres have stayed intellectually inept to address the issue. What can enhanced funding do in a field that lacks a vibrant intellectual resource?

A renewed plea to reform

A recent article in the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* has renewed the plea to reform and update Ayurveda. Titled "Confessions of an Ayurveda Professor", the article is authored by Kishor Patwardhan, a faculty member of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Prof. Patwardhan has candidly admitted that the anatomy and physiology contained in the Ayurvedic classics is mostly outdated and that the official approach to this subject is misguided. He has also disclosed the ecosystem-influences that made him adopt a wrong approach to the subject and the ill-effects this approach has had. While implicitly retracting his book *Human Physiology in Ayurveda*, he has called for a thorough change in the curriculum.

This article also points out the flawed approach of making ancient concepts sound relevant by super-imposing current scientific findings upon them. In addition to resulting in a travesty of truth, such misinterpretations in a practical field such as Ayurveda carry the risk of leading to dangerously wrong clinical choices. While petitioning for a scientific scrutiny of Ayurveda's foundational theories, the professor hopes that Ayurveda students get to unreservedly study current anatomy and physiology.

The basic truth

The Ministry of AYUSH must wake up and take cognisance of the points made here. Academics drawing handsome salaries from government-run AYUSH institutes need to see how sinful it is to hand over an unprocessed proto-science to gullible youngsters and then mislead them into believing that it is a super-sophisticated advanced science. As a medical system, Ayurveda is valuable immensely for its observations, only marginally for its theories, and not at all for its speculations. The sooner the establishment comes to terms with this basic truth, the better.

G.L. Krishna is an Ayurveda physician and Homi Bhabha Fellow. He is also a visiting scholar at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Epicentre Colombo

The visuals from Colombo are testimony to the frustration and anger of a long suffering people finally boiling over (Page 1, "Amid protests, Gotabaya agrees to quit", July 10) Things would not have come to such a pass had the ruling dispensation heeded the signs earlier and forged a process of forming a national unity government. The appeal by young protesters to the people taking over the Presidential Secretariat not to vandalise or take away items from the premises also exemplifies the civil nature of the agitation. This is a high point.

Finally, rulers all over the world should take this lesson to heart: if they wish to take credit for and bask in the glory of 'good times', they should be equally ready to pay for the 'bad times' visiting the people due to their policies. After all, this is what comes of hyperbole, megalomaniacal self-glorification and a concentration of power.

FIROZ AHMAD,
New Delhi

■ The anger of the common man in Sri Lanka reminds one of the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789 in France. Sri Lanka is facing a terrible economic crisis. The Rajapaksa clan refused to read the writing on the wall until public anger forced them out. One only hopes that an interim government will be formed soon. Are there any lessons for India? Yes. There are reasons to be concerned about inflation, unprecedented unemployment, a falling rupee and Current Account Deficit. And of course, growing communal tensions.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

■ The political and economic crises in Sri Lanka have left the island-nation in shreds. Enough damage has been done by the Rajapaksa government. The Sri Lankan example must be an eye-opener to other countries to show and prove that economic mismanagement has the potential to land any government in serious trouble. The life of the people cannot be taken for granted.

K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH,
Bengaluru

Shinzo Abe

The mindless killing of the former Japan Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, will go down in world history as one of its darkest days. The expansive and expatiating tributes and articles in dailies on Mr. Abe and his legacy show that the world has lost a tall leader – a void that will be very hard to fill.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

The worth of liberty in the eyes of the law

The interests of law enforcement trump the little worth that the right to privacy is supposed to have

ABHINAV SEKHRI

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Serious conversations around criminal procedure in India usually happen in the event of scandalous exercise of authority by the powers that be. Currently, we are witnessing one such wave of interest in the subject, prompted by the arrest and custodial detention of Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair, purportedly for having published a tweet almost four years ago which has only now caused hurt to the religious sentiments of unidentified persons. There have been opinions on almost every step taken by the police and courts and, expectedly, across partisan lines. Those standing with the accused decry his persecution and that of independent journalism, while others argue that the police ought to be allowed to probe the case and let the truth be established through an investigation. Given the nature of the news cycle, we view everything through the lens of the spectacle of the case that is unfolding before our eyes. We let the peculiar facts of each case lure us into thinking that the ordeal on display is not the law in action but an act of vengefulness. We are not witnessing the law unfold, but its perversion at the hands of biased agencies, and depending on where we stand, we might even be cheering it on in the background. The suggestion of illegal targeting by agences might be true in some cases in India, but perhaps it is not so in the ongoing prosecution of Mr. Zubair. And that is what should worry us all.

Was the arrest necessary?

Was it improper to arrest a person in one case, especially after summoning him in respect of another? It certainly was. Was it illegal? Perhaps not. The offences alleged to have been committed in the objectionable tweet case were cognisable, giving the police the power to arrest if there was a reasonable suspicion that the accused had committed the alleged crime as required by Section 41 in the Code of Criminal Procedure. These conditions were arguably satisfied here as authorship of the tweet was not in dispute. But while arrest might have been legally permitted, was it strictly necessary?

Often, the conversation about an illegal arrest is, in law, actually a conversation about an unjustified one, and Mr. Zubair's case is a reminder of just how problematic this distinction is. If an arrest is illegal, the scope for having two views on the point is infinitesimal. But when we shift from the realm of clear rules to hazy standards, there is great scope for argument. The court cannot completely substitute its views for the opinion of the police officer. It has to give the police officer's opinion some value. This means that except in the most egregious of cases, it is difficult to conclude that the arrest was, indeed, unnecessary. All too often one finds that there are judgments rendered months after the trauma of arrest was inflicted, imploring police officers not to rush to make an arrest in cases where the power might exist. It is far more infrequent to see police officers being hauled up, within a reasonable time frame, for having made wrongful or unnecessary arrests. Paeans to liberty will always achieve less than clear rules in the harsh language of statutes.

Search and seizure

Besides wide powers of arrest, there are wide powers of warrantless search and seizure conferred upon the police. This means that there is no necessary legal requirement that the police must obtain prior permission before effecting a search. Not only this, but the only threshold that the law requires the police to meet for seizing property is whether such property is "found under circumstances which create suspicion of the commission of any offence". Whether one's current phone and laptop were involved in the publication of a tweet through a mobile phone years ago is, therefore, not what the law requires the police to answer. The threshold is far lower than that, and easily met by expanding the contours of an investigation. The end product of this 'search and seizure' regime is that the police can go take what they want – whether they use it or not is up to them. No distinct statutory rules govern searches and seizures of digital devices, nor have courts emphasised on the distinction between the physical and digital realms. If anything, they have thus far tried to transplant rules from the physical realm onto the digital, by demanding persons to cooperate by handing over passwords like they would hand over keys to a locked room. This has created a scenario where registering a case and alleging that some activity took place using a phone or a laptop gives the police unfettered access to that device. The interests of law enforcement, even when these are as yet unclear to the agency, trump whatever little worth a fundamental right to privacy is supposed to have. In the garb of an investigation, the police can therefore legally conduct a roving and fishing inquiry into the deepest recesses of one's personal life – and even if they don't find anything useful, they can always keep a copy.

The question of bail

This brings us finally to bail. For all non-bailable offences, such as the ones involved here, there is no right of bail for an accused. It is up to the discretion of the judge, which is not fettered by any statutory norms or rules. There is not even a presumption that ordinarily judges would try to ensure that personal liberty is protected; rather, there is hope and expectation that judges will exercise their discretion judiciously. Granting or denying bail is not merely about ensuring that the accused will show up in court. Rather, the exercise of judicial discretion requires many factors to be considered, including the seriousness of the allegations and the interests of the pending investigation. What this means, in practice, is that differences of opinion are bound to come up on whether or not the accused should be granted bail. A bail order may be worthy of criticism and a superior court may well disagree with the opinion of the magistrate in Mr. Zubair's case and grant bail. But as long as the judge considered the relevant factors and then came to an opinion, a bail order is not illegal, no matter how much we may disagree with the outcome.

A dominant purpose for having legal procedures govern investigations and prosecutions is to ensure that the liberty of an individual is not completely forsaken before the might of the state. There must be a justification on part of the state to peel through layers of citizenship, consisting of facets such as the freedoms of movement, privacy, association. A legal process which is willing to ask these difficult questions of the state is one which tends to respect liberty. Mr. Zubair's case is a reminder that this does not hold true for the Indian criminal process, which is built upon conferring near-unfettered discretion upon its various constituent parts and hoping that the outcome achieves justice. At the mere registration of a First Information Report, the police are vested with vast powers of arrest, detention, search and seizure. Rather than the police, the process asks more questions of the accused seeking to restore their liberty, often placing enormous burdens of establishing innocence at the threshold itself. Burying liberty does not require agendas when it comes to the Indian criminal process. It merely seems to require the law as it stands.

Abhinav Sekhri is an advocate practising in Delhi

The road to productivity

Investing in roads reduces travel time, increases economic output and helps upgrade human development

KALA S. SRIDHAR AND VISHAL R.

It has taken a pandemic to know how important cities are. One reason why our progress towards a $5 trillion economy could be stifled is the pandemic-induced lockdowns in cities which play an important role in realising national and macroeconomic growth targets. Even as early in the pandemic as April 2020, a Barclays report found that "the absolute economic loss was likely the largest from the shutdown of Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Delhi and Mumbai, ranging from $1 billion-$1.7 billion per week."

Travel time

One aspect of cities that we know very little about, which contributes to their economic productivity, is that they are labour markets where the labour force exchanges their labour and creates knowledge spillovers. As the famous French planner Alain Bertaud points out, a lot of economic and productive activity takes place in cities and its jobs.

There is no doubt that the commute time for the labour force to the workplace plays a very important role in determining their productivity in cities. The travel time to work was one of the slowest in our cities in 2016: Bengaluru being the slowest at 22 km per hour, Delhi at 25 km per hour, and Chennai the highest at 33 km per hour.

Travel time continues to be long in our post-pandemic cities which are fiscally stressed and battling the problem of potholes following heavy rains. The longer the commute time in a city, the smaller is its effective labour market and vice-versa. While the nominal labour market of the city refers to all jobs created in the metropolitan area, the effective labour market refers to the jobs accessible within a certain commute. From the viewpoint of enlarging a city's effective labour market and economic output, it is therefore very important to keep the commute time short and commuting cost cheap within a city as it keeps growing in population. It should be clear that a short commute is desirable not only from the micro perspective of the commuter who otherwise wastes time, health and productivity with the delays in traffic, but also from a macro, city-level perspective, to enable a large effective labour market. In this context, it is instructive to note that in the pre-pandemic period, firms in Bengaluru threatened to leave the city and relocate if the traffic problems were not fixed, as it was affecting the productivity of their employees.

There is no doubt that the larger a city's effective labour market, the greater its agglomeration economies and knowledge spillovers will be. A study found that within a 45-minute commute on public transit, only 66,427 jobs were accessible in the Phoenix metropolitan area in the U.S. compared to the nearly 2,02,724 jobs which were accessible in the Philadelphia metropolitan area within the same commute time, even though the two cities have the same population (about 1.6 million). Therefore, there is no doubt that Philadelphia's effective labour market is bigger than its counterpart in Phoenix. This is reflected in the higher per capita income of $22,874 in Philadelphia compared to $21,907 in Phoenix in 2010.

A priority

One way in which urban local bodies (ULBs) directly impact the city's economic output is through their infrastructure. Why aren't our cities investing adequately in roads? In recent research, taking the case of Karnataka's cities, we found that road length has a positive effect on the city's tax base. This is because roads lead to easy access to jobs and increased economic activity; that also gives the public more confidence and motivation to pay taxes. Our estimate indicated that for every one km increase in the road length of a ULB, there is an increase in the ULB's own revenues by roughly ₹430 per capita. So, for a ULB with an average population of 78,415, the extent of increase in its own revenues can be to the extent of ₹33 million, for an increase of 1 km of roads per 1,000 of its population. So, cities should not view investment in road networks as expenditure; rather, roads add to the city's revenue base which the city can use to improve infrastructure and public services. Even simple things such as fixing potholes and puddles on roads lead to significant reductions in travel time and should be an important city government priority.

Investing in roads not only reduces travel time and enlarges effective labour markets of cities and their economic output, but also improves access to schooling for children as well as healthcare, thereby upgrading human development. This is indeed the road to the $5 trillion economy along with improvement in human well-being.

Kala S. Sridhar and Vishal R. are Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change, and IAS officer, Government of Karnataka, respectively

STATE OF PLAY

A mess that is hard to clean up

The just-concluded strike by sanitation workers in Karnataka is a reminder of the malaise in the system

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

Pourakarmikas (sanitation workers) across Karnataka launched a strike on July 1 demanding abolition of the system of contractual employment through contractors. The strike was withdrawn four days later, with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai promising to form a committee to work out the modalities for drafting the workers on permanent rolls of city corporations, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in three months. Will solid waste management (SWM) in the State finally come out of the clutches of contractors then? The history of the struggle of pourakarmikas in Karnataka shows that this is not an easy goal.

The strike is the latest turn in a saga that can be traced back to 1976 when the Devaraj Urs-led government formed a committee led by I.P.D. Salappa to look into the issues of sanitation workers. The report of that committee, recommending direct employment of workers and welfare measures, is still awaiting implementation.

Most city corporations in Karnataka stopped direct recruitment of sanitation workers after liberalisation and issued contracts to vendors for sweeping streets as well as door-step collection and transportation of garbage. These vendors in turn recruited sanitation workers. These contractors slowly evolved into a politically well-connected and money-spinning lobby. Bengaluru, for instance, spends nearly ₹1,200 crore annually for SWM mostly through contractors and has faced allegations of bogus billing and kickbacks.

Sanitation workers' demand for permanent government employment, which grew loud around 2010-11, began as a protest against payment of salaries below the prescribed minimum wage, sexual abuse of the women workforce, use of violence and firings of anyone who questioned the system. Following a strike in 2016, the then Congress government announced abolition of the contract system and employment of all sanitation workers by city corporations. However, contractors managed to derail the system in part.

The Karnataka Municipalities (Pourakarmikas Recruitment) (Special Rules), 2017, categorised only those deployed to sweep the streets as pourakarmikas and brought them under a direct payment scheme, essentially on contractual employment but directly with city corporations instead of contractors. This meant the stranglehold of contractors over garbage collection and transportation (van drivers, loaders etc.) continued.

The process of bringing pourakarmikas under a direct payment scheme exposed massive corruption in the garbage contract system. Contractors had been claiming salaries for over 31,000 pourakarmikas from BBMP, but the civic body could only find 17,000-odd pourakarmikas when it brought all those working under its direct contract. Probe into the scam has made no headway till date.

During the recent strike, sanitation workers demanded that all of them be considered pourakarmikas and provided permanent employment by city corporations. The State government has now said that it will make sweepers permanent and "try to" bring other sanitation workers under the direct payment scheme. If this is implemented, city corporations would take back the role of end-to-end SWM in-house, eliminating all contracts. This assurance by the State government comes amidst the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd., a new parastatal, being set up for SWM in the city. It has finalised the draft of a new garbage collection and transportation tender for five years. Tenders are scheduled to be floated later this month. Whether they will be floated or not will tell us if contractors will finally be eliminated in the sector. With Assembly elections slated in 2023 in Karnataka and BBMP polls likely before that, this question becomes all the more significant.

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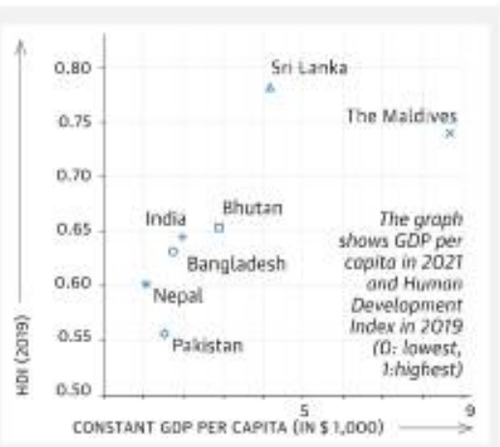
DATA POINT

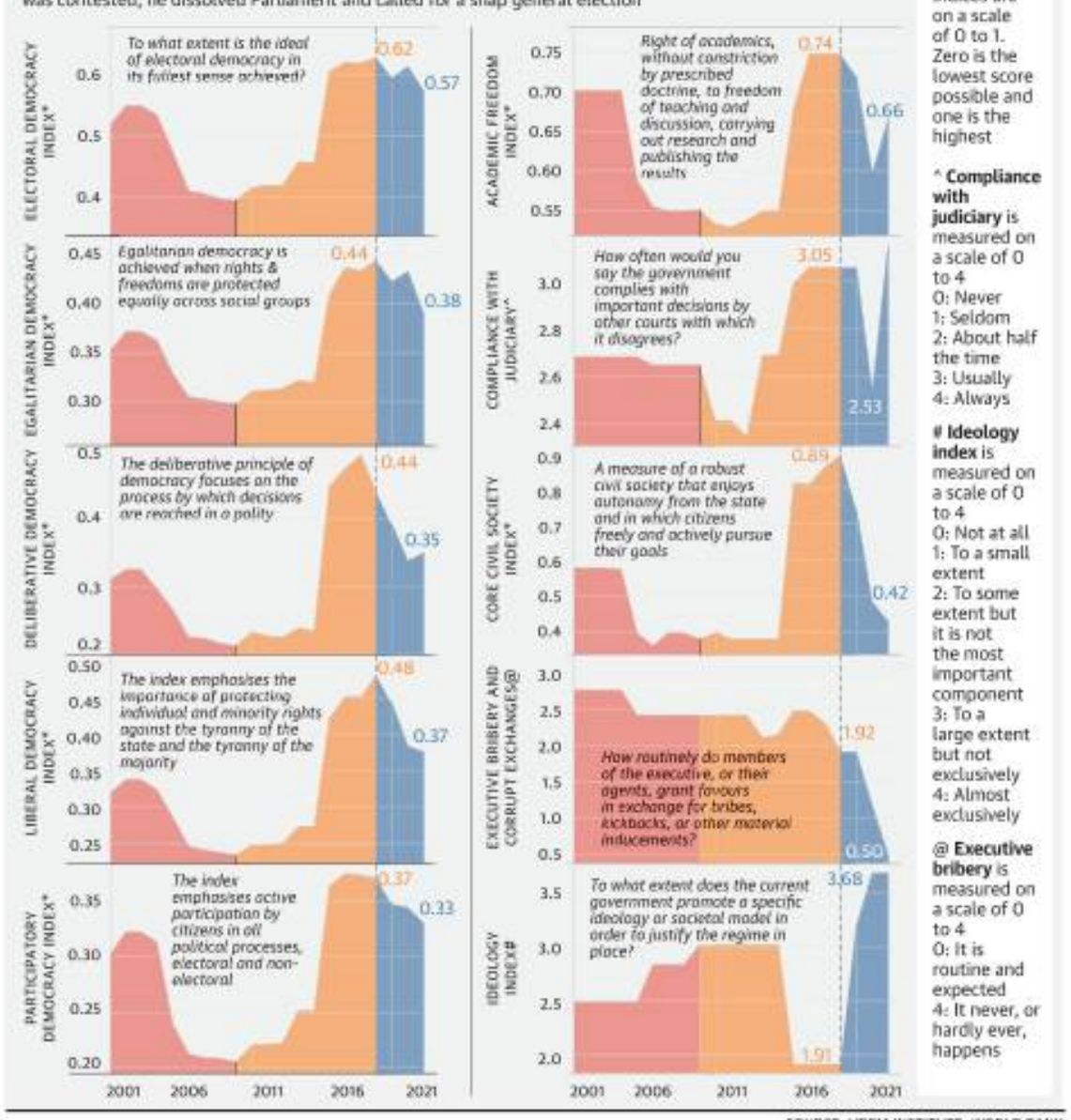
Democratic decline and a state in crisis

In a show of fury against the worsening economic situation, protesters in Sri Lanka stormed the Presidential Secretariat on Saturday and set ablaze the private residence of the Prime Minister. In 2021, the island nation had the best Human Development Index (HDI) among nations in the Indian subcontinent and the second-best GDP per capita. Its descent into chaos in recent months is mostly a consequence of financial mismanagement and erratic policy decisions. The rapid erosion of democratic values in recent years is also a reason for the display of public anger. While democratic values were on the ascent in the post-war phase, they declined rapidly since the constitutional crisis in 2018.

By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Jasmin Nihalani**



DEMOCRATIC VALUES | The graph shows the gains made after the end of the civil war in 2009 and the losses following the constitutional crisis in late 2018 when President Maithripala Sirisena sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with Mahinda Rajapaksa. Later, when his decision was contested, he dissolved Parliament and called for a snap general election


ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY INDEX*
To what extent is the ideal of electoral democracy in its fullest sense achieved?
0.62
0.57
ACADEMIC FREEDOM INDEX*
Right of academics, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, carrying out research and publishing the results
0.74
0.66
EGALITARIAN DEMOCRACY INDEX*
Egalitarian democracy is achieved when rights & freedoms are protected equally across social groups
0.44
0.38
COMPLIANCE WITH JUDICIARY^
How often would you say the government complies with important decisions by other courts with which it disagrees?
3.05
2.53
DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY INDEX*
The deliberative principle of democracy focuses on the process by which decisions are reached in a polity
0.44
0.35
CORE CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX*
A measure of a robust civil society that enjoys autonomy from the state and in which citizens freely and actively pursue their goals
0.89
0.42
LIBERAL DEMOCRACY INDEX*
The index emphasises the importance of protecting individual and minority rights against the tyranny of the state and the tyranny of the majority
0.48
0.37
EXECUTIVE BRIBERY AND CORRUPT EXCHANGES@
How routinely do members of the executive, or their agents, grant favours in exchange for bribes, kickbacks, or other material inducements?
1.92
0.50
PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY INDEX*
The index emphasises active participation by citizens in all political processes, electoral and non-electoral
0.37
0.33
IDEOLOGY INDEX#
To what extent does the current government promote a specific ideology or societal model in order to justify the regime in place?
3.68
1.91
2001
2006
2011
2016
2021

* All the indices are on a scale of 0 to 1. Zero is the lowest score possible and one is the highest

^ **Compliance with judiciary** is measured on a scale of 0 to 4
0: Never
1: Seldom
2: About half the time
3: Usually
4: Always

 # Ideology index is measured on a scale of 0 to 4
0: Not at all
1: To a small extent
2: To some extent but it is not the most important component
3: To a large extent but not exclusively
4: Almost exclusively

@ Executive bribery is measured on a scale of 0 to 4
0: It is routine and expected
4: It never, or hardly ever, happens

SOURCE: VDEM INSTITUTE, WORLD BANK

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 11, 1972

Simla Agreement in Pak. Assembly

New Delhi, July 10: The Simla agreement between India and Pakistan has by and large been welcomed by the Pakistan National Assembly which began its special session in Islamabad to-day to consider ratification of the agreement, Radio Pakistan reported. Later the Assembly adjourned to meet again at 09:30 hrs IST to-morrow. If necessary there would be an afternoon session also. Maulana Mufti Mahmud (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Islam) described the agreement as "a right step" and said that it had opened the door for peaceful negotiations with India for solving the problems between the two countries. Speaking on the Law Minister, Mr Mahmud Ali Kasuri's motion to consider the ratification of the agreement, Mufti Mahmud, however said that "it would have been better had the Kashmir issue and that of prisoners of war had also been settled in Simla." Sardar Baz Khan Madari (Ind.) also termed the agreement of July 2 "a right step". He hoped that this would clear the way for the solution of problems between the two countries. Mr. Inaytal Rahman Abbassi (Muslim League - Qayyum faction) congratulated President Bhutto on reaching an agreement with India without compromising on principles and the honour of the country. Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan), however, said that the "agreement had harmed the interests of Pakistan." He said that Pakistan believed in peace through bilateral talks but "keeping in view India's past record the ratification of the agreement will produce no useful results." Mr. Ahmed Raza Kasuri (Pakistan People's Party) while supporting the agreement said that both India and Pakistan needed peace. Sardar Abdul Alim (Pakistan People's Party) said that "this agreement has infused life into the Kashmir issue. This agreement should be ratified."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 11, 1922

Mr. Sastri

Wellington, July 16: Mr. Sastri has arrived here. He will remain in New Zealand until July 27th as the Government's guest. Civil reception will be held here today. Mr. Sastri, interviewed, said that he had very little to ask of New Zealand. There were only 200 Indians in New Zealand and they had already got the franchise. However there are several small matters which he thinks he can satisfactorily settle with the Government. His task, therefore, will simply be to understand New Zealand and make India understood by a New Zealand.

FROM PAGE ONE

No resolution to Sri Lanka crisis

With the Rajapaksas still holding a parliamentary majority, it is not a straightforward choice for the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Power), which has nearly 50 seats in the 225-member House. While the party may feel pressured to help restore stability on the island, the road ahead for a new, caretaker government is bound to be rocky and rife with risk amid a worsening economic crisis.

"We are speaking to various parties and independent groups in Parliament. We are looking at how the two top positions of President and Prime Minister could be shared among us," SJB legislator Harsha de Silva told *The Hindu*. Two names that have come up in this connection are long-time Rajapaksa loyalist Dullas Alahapperuma, an MP from Matara district, and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa. The numbers in the House are still stacked in favour of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP, or People's Front), making Opposition actors ambivalent about an "all-party" arrangement.

Almost all Opposition parties are apprehensive, knowing that a possible stint in the next government may impact their chances of winning back the trust of angry, disenchanted voters in the next elections that most of them want to be held in about six months.

"We have been consulted and the SJB has invited us. We have asked them to go ahead with a new government if they have the numbers. However, if they need our support, we said will then talk about the conditions on which we might be able to support them," TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran told *The Hindu*. The Speaker is will convene another party leaders' meeting on Monday, political sources said.

20-bed Army medical facility at Galwan

The unit will provide treatment for gunshot wounds sustained by personnel at over 14,000 feet

DINAKAR PERI
VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Two years after 20 soldiers were killed in clashes with the Chinese Army in Ladakh's Galwan, the Indian Army has for the first time set up a medical unit in Galwan that, among other capabilities, will provide treatment for gunshot wounds at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.

India and China have been engaged in eyeball-to-eyeball positions at multiple locations along the undefined Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh for more than two years. While several rounds of talks at the diplomatic and military levels have eased the stand-off in a few points, turning these areas into no-patrolling zones, there are others where the build-up continues.

Need of the hour: The medical centre is important because seriously ill patients are now taken to the field hospital in Leh, 200 km away. • GETTY IMAGES

Ad hoc facility

A senior government official said the 20-bed field dressing station (FDS), which is an "ad-hoc" medical facility unlike a regular field hospital, became operational in Galwan around three months ago. "It can cater to all kinds of treatment a field hospital has but at a smaller scale," said a defence source.

The government official said that the opening of the medical facility at such a high altitude is significant as there was no such arrangement earlier and any patient in a serious condition had to be either airlifted or brought down by road to the field hospital in Leh, more than 200 km away.

Paramedical team

"A paramedical team and a doctor is always there on standby with all patrolling units. However, the field dressing station will come in handy when there is no time to be lost. It will have the paraphernalia to treat soldiers with gunshot injuries, or serious patients, and then they can be referred to the field hospital in Leh," the official said.

After the June 15 Galwan incident in 2020 in which 20 soldiers were killed, shots were fired at the south bank of the Pangong Lake in August-September but no injuries were reported. It was the first time since 1975 that shots were fired along the LAC. The Army issued a statement then that China had carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo in south Pangong Tso and "Indian troops pre-empted this PLA [People's Liberation Army] activity".

India and China have held 15 rounds of meetings of senior commanders so far. Both sides failed to achieve a breakthrough for disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 in the Hot Springs area in the 15th meeting held on March 11. The troops have pulled back from their positions in Galwan and on both the banks of Pangong Tso.

"After China amassed troops in April-May 2020, the deployment at Ladakh was also increased manifold. It takes time for freshly deployed soldiers to acclimatise to the weather at such a high altitude. There have been many cases of hypothermia and other injuries among the troops. The newly opened medical facility will cater to those needs as well," the official said.

Man detained for dressing up as Shiva

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A man was detained by the police on Sunday for allegedly "hurting religious sentiments" by dressing up as Lord Shiva in a street play on the rise in prices of fuel and LPG cylinders in Nagaon district of Assam.

He was detained after members of the Bajrang Dal and other right-wing organisations complained against him at the Nagaon Sadar police station.

Birinchi Bora was joined in the protest by a co-actor dressed up as Lord Shiva's consort Parvati. In a viral video, the man is seen riding a motorbike with the co-actor. The two-wheeler comes to a halt at a place in Nagaon town as it has run out of petrol.

He then vents his anger on the "skyrocketing prices" of fuel and cooking gas and slamming the Centre on the rising unemployment problem. "We have released the man after detaining him for some time," a local police officer said.

India vows solidarity with Sri Lankans

Asked if New Delhi was worried about an influx of Sri Lankans to India amidst the crisis, Mr. Jaishankar said, "There is no refugee crisis right now."

"India stands with the people of Sri Lanka as they seek to realise their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means and values, established institutions and constitutional framework," Mr. Bagchi said while adding that India had already announced support of $3.8 billion to Sri Lanka in 2022, in line with the government's "Neighbourhood First" policy. On Sunday, Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay met with Sri Lankan Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, as India handed over 44,000 metric tonnes of urea under a credit line extended to help farmers.

India's official position mirrors the stand taken by the government in May, after the resignation of former PM Mahinda and the Cabinet after failing to contain the economic downturn.

Start-ups brace for a 'long and bitter winter'

"A slew of factors have led us here, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, supply chain disruptions, consequent inflationary pressures, and rising cost of capital, amongst others. As the funding squeeze set in, the layoffs were imminent," Prabhu Ram, head of Industry Intelligence Group at CyberMedia Research told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Prabhu Ram added that over the past years, India's strong digital boom, along with the relative ease of obtaining funding, fuelled the rise of Indian start-ups, and with an intent to ramp-up growth through new offerings - including products and solutions, they went on a rapid expansion of their product and tech teams.

Congress, BJP spar over new forest rules

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, along with a 2009 Government Order, makes it mandatory to seek "free, prior and informed consent" of families which would be affected by such diversion of forest land, Mr. Ramesh, a former Union Environment Minister, said referencing a report by the Web portal Newslaundry that highlighted this issue on Saturday.

A detailed statement from the Congress's Twitter handle said the new rules "destroyed the very purpose of the FRA" as once a forest clearance was granted, no claims by forest dwellers and tribal people would be recognised and settled.

Mr. Yadav rebutted Mr. Ramesh's argument underlining that fulfilling and complying with the FRA was an independent process and could be undertaken by the States "at any stage" of the forest clearance process and that complying with provisions of the FRA is mentioned in the rules. However, he said, it had to be completed before granting approval for land diversion.

An independent expert in legal questions surrounding the FRA told *The Hindu* that the new rules undermined the role of the gram sabha whose consent was required for any large-scale diversion not involving linear projects (construction of roads, highways and railways exempt from gram sabha approvals).

Shiv Sena set to split in Lok Sabha

One of the official reasons cited is the need to extend support to the National Democratic Alliance's nominee for the Presidential election, Droupadi Murmu.

"Except for Arvind Sawant, Vinayak Raut, Gajanan Kritikar and Sanjay Mandlike, all other Shiv Sena Lok Sabha members want to cede from the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction and declare allegiance to the Eknath Shinde faction. And while there is no whip in place for Presidential polls, supporting Ms. Murmu's candidature will be one of the reasons cited for the split in the Sena," a source explained .

Army needs new utility helicopters

Fleets of ageing Cheetah and Chetak helicopters are awaiting replacement

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army Aviation Corps is in the process of a major augmentation of its firepower with the induction of the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) under way, and Apache attack helicopters joining from 2024.

However, its fleet of ageing Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, which are a lifeline for high-altitude areas, are in dire need of replacement. Of the 190 of them in service, 134, or over 70%, of them are over 30 years old.

"While combat potential has increased manifold and is on an upswing, reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities are going to take a hit unless induction of the Ka-226T and the indigenous Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) takes place simultaneously to replace the ageing fleet," a defence official said.

The LUH, designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has come up well, but it will take time for sufficient numbers to come in, the official stated. The Air Force is also scheduled to raise its first LCH squadron shortly.

On air: The Army operates 145 indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters. • FILE PHOTO

However, the deal with Russia for 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters has been stuck for several years over indigenisation issues and is now on the verge of cancellation with the availability of the LUH and the global situation compounded by the war in Ukraine, two defence officials confirmed.

The Army and the Air Force together have a requirement of over 400 helicopters of this class.

LCH squadron

On June 1, the Army raised its first LCH squadron in Bengaluru. "It will move to the Eastern Command on completion next year," the official stated.

The Cabinet Committee had sanctioned the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S. Following this, the IAF procured 22 Apaches under a deal signed in September 2015. The government has decided any further Apache procurements would go to the Army.

In August 2021, Army Aviation got control of the Army's Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), which were earlier under the Artillery. The Army has over 30 Herons UAVs procured from Israel and a major upgrade plan for weaponisation and facilitation of satellite communication for them at an estimated cost of over ₹6000 crore has been delayed, officials said.

Army Aviation currently operates around 190 Cheetah, Chetak and Cheetal helicopters, with five of them, the oldest, being over 50 years old. A bulk of the fleet, close to 130 of the 190, are between 30 and 50 years old, a senior official in the know said.

Rescue operation on hold due to bad weather in J&K

Efforts under way to restore route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Hopes of finding those missing in the Amarnath flash floods alive are fading by the hour even as the rescuers are making last-ditch efforts to look for any survivor and the Army has pressed heavy machinery into service to restore the track to the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said on Sunday.

A flash flood triggered by a cloudburst near the cave shrine on Friday afternoon has led to the death of least 16 people. Around 40 people are still missing.

"The rescue operations are going on as personnel from various agencies are clearing the debris in the hope of finding any survivor," a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) official said. He said most of the debris clearance is being done at the areas pointed at by sniffer dogs.

"We are still hopeful but anyone still alive under that debris will be a miracle," the official said. He said there has been no breakthrough as far as finding the survivors or even recovering a new body is concerned.

Meanwhile, the Army has pressed heavy machinery into service in order to restore the route to the cave shrine at the earliest.

Amarnath pilgrims waiting to board a bus to return home on Sunday. • PTI

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force (IAF) evacuated 34 injured pilgrims from the medical facility at the Amarnath yatra base camp to a hospital here on Sunday.

"An additional 34 injured pilgrims were evacuated by IAF Mi-17 V5 and Cheetal helicopters on Sunday," a defence spokesperson said.

He said the IAF choppers also airlifted 20 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel, along with six canines, from Srinagar to take part in the search operation to trace the missing people believed to be stuck under debris.

EPFO to start quick pension payment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will consider and approve a proposal for setting up a central pension disbursal system at its meeting on July 29 and 30, paving the way for crediting the benefit into over 73 lakh pensioners' bank accounts in one go across India.

Presently, over 138 regional offices of the EPFO disburse pensions to beneficiaries in their region separately.

"A proposal for setting up a central pension disbursal system will be placed in the EPFO's apex decision making body, Central Board of Trustees (CBT), in a meeting scheduled on July 29 and 30," a source told *PTI*.

The source further stated that the pension would be disbursed using a central database of regional offices and this will facilitate crediting the benefit into bank accounts of over 73 lakh beneficiaries in one go. The source explained that all regional offices cater to the pensioners in their regions separately and that is why pensioners across the country get pension at different times.

In the 229th meeting of the CBT held on November 20, 2021, the trustees had approved the proposal for development of centralised IT-enabled systems by C-DAC.

CPWD faces cyber attacks, reiterates norms to staff

'Reports about targeted attacks surged in past few months'

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been facing a spate of targeted cyber attacks on computers across its offices, according to an advisory it issued to employees last week reiterating earlier cyber security guidelines.

"References are being received from security agencies of Government of India regarding targeted attacks on the compromised computers in various CPWD offices for collection of sensitive information. Frequency of such references has increased in past few months," the CPWD said on July 8.

It added that the references from security agencies are being sent to the regional heads of CPWD for analysing the root cause and sanitisation of devices. Reports are also sought on compliance.

References from agencies are sent to the regional heads of CPWD. • ISTOCK

However, the CPWD said action with regard to the references is not being taken in a timely manner and the reports are getting "delayed abnormally". The office memorandum informed employees that the CPWD "can't question the findings of security agencies who are tracking such incidents".

Reiterating earlier guidelines, including one issued on May 13, the CPWD asked employees to follow the cyber security measures. "Any consequences arising out of such delay shall be the responsibility of official concerned ," the office memo stated.

A CPWD official told *The Hindu* that one or two such instances are being observed every month from various offices. The official said the CPWD has about 2,000 offices across the country and employees are being reminded to follow the cyber security rules. The official further said CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) is tracking the attacks.

A construction agency that functions under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, the CPWD has carried out many some of the most prominent projects in the past.

Kin await bodies of Tamil men killed in Myanmar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The bodies of two Tamil men killed in Myanmar's Tamu on July 5 are yet to be handed over to the Indian authorities. The bereaved families of 28-year-old M. Iyanar and 27-year-old P. Mohan, residents of Moreh town on Manipur's border with Myanmar, are "hoping against hope" to get their bodies for the final rites.

The two operated auto-rickshaws in Moreh for a living. They had on that fateful day gone to Tamu to attend the birthday party of a common friend.

Members of Pyu Shaw Htee, a pro-junta militia fighting the resistance force of Myanmar civilians, assaulted and then shot them. Some locals took their bodies to a hospital that has virtually been running without staff and electricity.

The town's Tamil Sangam has appreciated the efforts of Manipur CM Nongthombam Biren Singh and Tengnoupal district's Deputy Commissioner Manuamching to bring back the bodies of the men.

"An official letter has been sent but it was received informally by some locals, as Myanmar does not have any legitimate government. We are not sure if the letter seeking the bodies for last rites has been or will be handed over to the authorities in Tamu," a member said.

Army to induct Mandarin experts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army has initiated the process to induct Mandarin experts into the Territorial Army (TA), with a notification issued on Sunday inviting applications for six vacancies – five civilians and one ex-service officer. This follows a recent effort by the Army to increase the number of Mandarin speakers as well as offer courses in Tibetology for officers posted along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to orient them in Tibetan culture, traditions and practices.

The Army has recently obtained requisite approvals to induct Mandarin trained personnel in the TA, an official said. "With recalibration of the Indian Army's strategic outlook towards the northern borders, the Army has upscaled its Chinese language training and has synergistically enmeshed appropriate scaling of Chinese linguists within its overall strategy," he said.

APPEAL

I am **Nagaraju 14 years old** boy hailing from a poor family. I am suffering from Chediak Higashi Syndrome with HLH and needs **Rs.30,00,000/-** for the Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplant at V.S. Hospital, Chennai. Kindly help me to have a new life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **V.S. Medical Trust will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY(Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0018018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).**

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338979327. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Nagaraju

Congress sacks Goa Leader of Opposition

Party to probe Lobo, Kamat for engineering defections

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Goa was buffeted yet again by winds of political turbulence as the Congress in the coastal State headed for a major split engineered by its senior leaders Michael Lobo and former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat in coordination with the ruling BJP.

Amid frenzied speculation since Saturday of a number of Congress MLAs defecting *en masse* to the BJP, the Congress in-charge, Dinesh Gundu Rao, in a late-evening press conference on Sunday, said Mr. Lobo, Calangute MLA, had been removed as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, while Mr. Kamat would be probed for anti-party activities by hobnobbing with the BJP.

Late in the evening, Congress president Sonia Gandhi asked senior party leader Mukul Wasnik to rush to Goa to "oversee latest political developments" in the State.

While the BJP apparently tried to poach eight of 11 Congress MLAs with the help of Mr. Lobo and Mr. Kamat, Mr. Rao implied that the attempt had failed as the Congress retained six MLAs.

Digambar Kamat

"Let's see how many will move [to the BJP]... we have six of our MLAs and are in touch with some more. But the Congress will not be weakened. We will take up this issue of betrayal to the Goan people which is engineered by two people for sake of power and personal gain," he said.

Over the weekend, political circles were buzzing overtime in the coastal State with reports of Mr. Lobo and Mr. Kamat, along with an unspecified number of Congress MLAs, planning to join the BJP.

Both issued strenuous denials saying there was no truth in these suggestions, with Mr. Lobo vehemently denying reports till Sunday. However, Mr. Lobo's intentions became clear when he skipped the 6.45 p.m. press meet at Congress House called by Mr. Rao for all 11 Congress MLAs to make a united stand in order to dispel the suggestions of a mass defection.

Sources said that Mr. Lobo had reached Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's residence late evening.

When a number of MLAs including Mr. Lobo, his wife Delilah, Mr. Kamat, Rajesh Faldessai and Kedar Naik did not turn up, the crisis within the party intensified.

Finally, addressing the press after a tense two-hour delay, Mr. Rao said it was "sad to see" someone as senior as Mr. Kamat whom the Congress had given so much, indulging in such "cheap, dirty and desperate politics".

Despite his denials, there had been rumours since the February Assembly election results that Mr. Lobo, a former BJP Minister who had joined the Congress ahead of the polls, could return to his old party.

(With PTI inputs)

Congress amps up its messaging strategy

After misrepresentation of Rahul Gandhi's remarks, the party shows it will not take things lying down

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Days after a prominent news channel misrepresented Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comment on Students' Federation of India activists who attacked his Wayanad office as his views on the killers of the Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal, Pawan Khera, the new head of the party's media and publicity wing, tweaked the lines of an all-time hit, '*Every breath you take*', to hold out a warning to the media.

"Every single day. And every word you say. Every game you play. We'll be watching you," he said. This July 4 tweet of Mr. Khera displayed the new-found aggressiveness in the Congress's communication strategy.

The channel had apologised and ran several clarifications about the context of Mr. Gandhi's comment. But the Congress was not impressed. Police complaints against the channel, TV anchor and four BJP leaders, including former Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, were filed across six States.

As the police from the party-ruled Chhattisgarh landed at the anchor's home in Noida to arrest him, the matter reached the Supreme Court that restrained Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan police forces from making any arrest. But the Congress sent out a clear message – that it will not take things lying down.

Alka Lamba addressing a press conference in Ranchi. The Congress held 23 press conferences on Saturday. •PTI

"We are aware that many of the liberals are unhappy that the police were sent to the TV channel and there are different views within the party as well, but the important thing is that our workers are happy. This [countering the channels] should have been done much earlier," said a Congress functionary who did not wish to be named.

'Links with terrorists'

On Saturday, this new assertiveness was on full display as the party held 23 press conferences in as many cities to expose the Bharatiya Janata Party's alleged links with terrorists, including one of the Udaipur killers, Riyaz Attari, and Talib Hussain Shah, an alleged Lashkar militant who served as the social media head of the BJP's minority morcha in Jammu.

"One after the other, terrorists are linked with the BJP. What is this relationship called?" tweeted Jairam Ramesh, who is now the general secretary of the integrated communication department of the Congress.

Moving beyond traditional print and electronic media, the newly created communication department under Mr. Ramesh will handle digital media, social media platforms and focus on in-house research.

It was the first major organisational change post the Udaipur conclave where the party had admitted its "weakness" in its ability to communicate.

So, now from holding daily press conferences to issuing multiple press statements, the Congress media department is keeping itself and presspersons busy.

"More than the frequency and intensity of press conferences, I think the bigger issue for the Congress's political communication strategy is its political content. Where does it stand on a particular issue and if there is a broad consensus within the party over it," asked Anand Pradhan, a media commentator.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Alternative methods

"Most important, does the party have an alternative method and mechanism to communicate to the public instead of over-dependence or reliance on social media and 'captured' legacy media," he asked.

A key change in communication style has been to publicly contradict senior leaders if their views do not align with the party line.

For example, when senior party leader and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari wrote a piece in favour of the Agnipath recruitment scheme, the communication chief promptly tweeted, "While @INCIndia is the only democratic party, it must be said his views are entirely his own & not of the party, which firmly believes Agnipath is anti-national security & anti-youth, bulldozed through without discussion."

Maharashtra crisis

In the middle of the Maharashtra crisis, when Uttar Pradesh Congress leader Acharya Pramod suggested that Uddhav Thackeray should immediately resign and it was put out as the Congress's view by a TV channel, Mr. Ramesh tweeted that the U.P. Congress leader was neither an official spokesperson nor represented the party's view.

Opinion is, however, divided on whether public admonition would discipline party leaders or deepen the fault lines. A section of the party argues that it is important to send a message to the media, especially TV channels, that they can no longer pass off individual opinions as the party's view on "sensitive" issues.

PM greets Islamic bloc nations on Id

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed Id greetings to several Islamic countries. In letters written to the leaders of Morocco, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iraq, and several others, Mr. Modi described the festival of Id-ul-Azha as an occasion that celebrates "sacrifice, piety and forgiveness".

In his message, Mr. Modi described it as a festival celebrated by 200 million Indian citizens. "Prime Minister Modi prayed for peace, harmony and fraternity among all peoples in the service of greater good for humanity," said a press note .

Mr. Modi also took this occasion to convey his gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia for "looking after the welfare" of Indian Haj pilgrims. In his message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh he said, "Our ties help promote inclusive growth for all in both countries." Officials said Pakistan is unlikely to receive a letter from the Prime Minister. Taliban-ruled Afghanistan was also excluded from the list of greetings.

Jignesh among new Gujarat Cong. chiefs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

After a series of desertions in its Gujarat unit, the Congress high command has appointed seven leaders as working presidents in the State unit, barely a few months before the Assembly election.

However, the State unit lacks a leader who can command the influence and respect and steer the party during the crucial polls. The local leaders and cadres feel that unless a leader is given the command of the party, its prospects will not improve in the State.

They are: Lalit Kagathara, a first-time Legislator from Tankara; Ambarish Der, MLA from Rajula; and Rutwik Makawana, MLA from Chotila. The others are Dalit activist and Legislator Jignesh Mevani, youth Congress president Indravijaysinh Gohil, Ahmedabad MLA Himatsinh Patel and Kadir Pirzada.

Id prayers

Festival spirit: The faithful offering Id-ul-Azha namaz on the Taj Mahal premises in Agra on Sunday. •SANDEEP SAXENA

Pawar hopes MVA will contest polls together

However, there has been no discussion on this, he says

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While stating he wished the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition would contest future elections in Maharashtra as a joint entity, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has acknowledged that currently, there have been no talks to this effect among the NCP, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) and the Congress to this effect.

Speaking in Aurangabad on Sunday, Mr. Pawar clarified that he had never said there would be mid-term elections in the State soon, but that he had merely exhorted his party workers to begin preparing for polls.

The NCP chief, widely perceived as the 'architect' of the ideologically opposed alliance of the MVA coalition, saw his work unravel after an intra-party rebellion by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde facilitated by the BJP toppled the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA, with the result that Mr. Shinde became the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Sharad Pawar

"After the MVA government's collapse, the question arises as to what will become of the coalition. It is my wish that the MVA ought to contest future polls together. But this decision needs to be taken with due consultation among the three parties... as of now, there is nothing on this count," Mr. Pawar said.

He further said that while nothing had happened within his party, the problem currently lay within the Sena.

"While in 2019, some people from my party tried to go that route, I did not permit them to do so," said the NCP chief, alluding to the revolt by his nephew Ajit Pawar, who briefly joined the BJP only to be turned back by his uncle.

Kuldeep Bishnoi meets Shah, Nadda

Ex-Cong. leader may join BJP soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Bharatiya Janata Party's national president J.P. Nadda here on Sunday.

Mr. Bishnoi was expelled from all party positions by the Congress for voting against its Rajya Sabha nominee Ajay Maken in Haryana last month and is rumoured to soon join the BJP.

Kuldeep Bishnoi

Mr. Bishnoi posted the pictures of his meeting with the two leaders on his Twitter handle, and said that he felt honoured to have met them. He said that Mr. Shah was a "true politician" and he felt his "aura" and "charisma" while talking to him during the meeting.

Sources close to Mr. Bishnoi said he might formally join the BJP with his supporters at Delhi later in July.

'Not comfortable'

Mr. Bishnoi has been upset with the Congress's central leadership for not considering him for the post of Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee president during a reshuffle in May. He was also not comfortable with the party giving former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh complete control over the State unit with the appointment of his loyalist, former MLA Udit Bhan, as the party chief.

He had made his displeasure public over the party's decision through a series of tweets then.

Reacting to his expulsion from the Congress, Mr. Bishnoi had accused the party of acting "selectively", and blamed this approach of the party for it being in "dire straits".

While the BJP's core non-Jat vote bank in Haryana will be strengthened with the entry of Mr. Bishnoi into its fold, it will help the saffron party woo the Bishnoi community during the Rajasthan Assembly election next year.

The community has a considerable presence in nearly 30 Assembly constituencies.

Deputy Speaker justifies action on Shinde camp

Zariwal responds to petitions by 16 MLAs on 48 hours given to respond to disqualification notices

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Deputy Speaker Narhari Sitaram Zariwal has denied in the Supreme Court any irregularity in giving 48 hours' time to then MLA and now Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, and 15 legislators of his camp to respond to disqualification notices issued for defection.

The response from Mr. Zariwal came in petitions filed by Mr. Shinde and the other MLAs in the top court, challenging the disqualification proceedings.

Mr. Zariwal said the time for responses to disqualification notices was purely discretionary. "There is absolutely no illegality in the 48 hours being given to the petitioners [Mr. Shinde and others] to respond to the disqualification petitions," he submitted.

CM Eknath Shinde with rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at a special session of Maharashtra Assembly in Mumbai. •FILE PHOTO

He said the number of days was immaterial and what mattered was whether the MLAs were given sufficient and reasonable time to file their replies.

He noted that the MLAs in question had at the time approached the Supreme Court against the notices within a day.

Laying emphasis on the MLAs' approaching top court within 24 hours, the Deputy Speaker further said, "I fail to understand as to how and why 48 hours' notice for them to file their replies in the first instance is itself is unreasonable and violates the rule of natural justice."

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Legislature Secretary has issued show-cause notices to 53 of the total 55 Shiv Sena MLAs in the State – 39 of the faction led by Eknath Shinde and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray group.

One of the 14 MLAs from the Thackeray side, Santosh Bangar, joined the Shinde camp on the day of the floor test.

Both the sides have accused each other of defying the party whip during the Speaker's election and the trust vote on July 3 and 4, respectively, seeking disqualification of the legislators from both the sides.

The Shinde faction has not included the name of Aaditya Thackeray in the list of MLAs against whom they have sought disqualification. The legislators have been asked to explain their stand within seven days, sources said.

(With PTI inputs)

Eknath Shinde performs official puja at Pandharpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday performed the annual 'Mahapuja' (worship) at the Vithal-Rukmini temple in Pandharpur of Solapur district on the auspicious occasion of 'Ashadhi Ekadashi'.

There had been uncertainty as to whether Mr. Shinde, a senior Shiv Sena leader who recently took over as Chief Minister after his intra-party revolt toppled the Uddhav Thackeray-led tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, would be able to attend the official State puja as the model code of conduct for some local bodies' elections had come into force.

However, Mr. Shinde was able to honour a political and cultural tradition after the State Election Commission (SEC) gave its nod. He was accompanied by his family.

With the theme woven around environmental awareness and reducing pollution, Mr. Shinde, who participated in the *paryavaran wari*, appealed to the public to avoid the use of polluting plastics.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर
क्रमांक: 2993 दिनांक: 05.07.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 11 वर्ष 2022-2023
NIB No.PWD2223A0965
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 1 कार्य जिसकी लागत राशि रू. 5792.00 लाख है के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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As debt drives Punjab farmers to death, loan waiver demand sparks debate

Farmer outfits in the State say they will be forced to start an agitation against the AAP government if a complete farm loan waiver is not announced shortly

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

A recent study on farmers' suicide in Punjab by the Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has revealed that in six districts of the State, as many as 9,291 farmers died by suicide between 2000 and 2018 and nearly 88% of the suicide cases were a fallout of farm-related debts.

The relatively higher number of debt-related suicides is all set to bring the issue of "farm loan debt waiver" yet again into the spotlight in the near future as farmer outfits across the State are planning to corner the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on their long-pending demand to announce a complete farm loan debt waiver.

"Farmers have been demanding a complete loan waiver for long, but successive governments have not paid any heed to it. The current AAP government's attitude towards farm loan waivers is also disappointing. If the government's apathy towards farmers continued, then farmers of different outfits will join hands and start agitation against the State government. If by September 15, the government doesn't take a decisive step on loan waiver, we will under the umbrella of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) begin our struggle for loan waiver," Jagmohan Singh, general secretary of the Bharatiya Kisan Union Ekta (Dakaunda), told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Purchasing crops at MSP

Sarvan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Punjab unit of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said the Punjab government should ensure complete loan waiver for farmers and simultaneously work on a policy to make farming profitable, for which announcing and purchasing crops at the minimum support price (MSP) is the first important step that needs to be taken by the government.

"Farmers suicide across the State are only rising, the government should waive all outstanding loans, whether private or government loans, against the farmers and labourers. We were hoping some concrete step will be announced in this direction in the State budget, but there's nothing. The government has not even given any road map surrounding steps for sustaining the agriculture sector. We are not pinning high hopes on the AAP government, but let us wait for two or three months. If no steps are initiated for loan waiver and other demands of farmers, we will be forced to start an agitation," he said.

Grim reality: The highest rate of suicides was found in Sangrur district with 2,506 reported suicide cases. • AFP

SPECIAL

Sukhdev Singh Korikalan, general secretary of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan), one of the largest outfits in Punjab, firmly believes that it is important that the government announce a complete loan waiver.

"It's the ill-conceived policies of the Union and the State governments that have resulted in farmers falling into debt traps. The key reason for farmers getting into the debt trap is the lack of MSP on all crops. We want that MSP should be announced for all crops and also its purchase to be guaranteed," he said.

Study in four phases

A joint study titled "Farmer suicides in punjab – incidence, causes, and policy suggestions" in the six districts of Punjab was carried out by the Department of Economics and Sociology, PAU, in four phases for the period 2000 to 2018 by Sukhpal Singh (principal economist), Manjeet Kaur (principal agricultural economist) and H.S. Kingra (senior agricultural economist).

The first phase survey was carried out in Bathinda and Sangrur between 2000 and 2008 followed by another phase that included four districts – Barnala, Ludhiana, Mansa, and Moga – for the period 2000 to 2010. The third phase survey was conducted in 2016 in all the six districts for the period 2000 to 2015. The fourth phase survey was undertaken in 2019, in which the cases of farmer deaths by suicide in all these six districts for the period 2016 to 2018 were studied.

The present study consolidates the total number of deaths by suicide of farmers reported in all the surveys from 2000 to 2018. All the villages falling in the jurisdiction of the six districts were covered in the door-to-door and village-to-village survey.

Grim situation

Pointing out that the high rate of suicides in the six districts of Punjab throws light on the grim situation of farmers in the State, the study notes in these six districts as many as 9,291 farmers died by suicide during 2000 to 2018. The highest rate of suicides was found in Sangrur district with 2,506 reported suicide cases, followed by 2,098 suicides in Mansa, 1,956 in Bathinda, 1,126 in Barnala, 880 in Moga and 725 in Ludhiana. The number of suicide cases was the highest (630) in 2008 and declined thereafter. This decline in suicide cases may be an outcome of the "debt waiver scheme" of the Union government initiated in 2008. Overall, about 88% of the farmers died by suicide due to heavy debt burden, said the study.

Professor Sukhpal said in the study that the suicide victims were classified into debt and non-debt category on the basis of the level of debt per acre of land, level of income of the family and assets owned and assets sold by the family to pay off the debt.

"The observations of the study found that around 88% of the suicide cases fell in the debt category and the remaining about 12% occurred for non-debt reasons. The farm size-wise distribution clearly depicts that the main reason for small farmer suicides was heavy debt burden, as over 89% of these victims were motivated by the heavy debt as compared with large farmers, where debt-related cases were around 57%. As the farm size increases, the proportion of suicide cases with heavy debt burden decreases. Around 43% of the large farmers died by suicide due to non-debt reasons," he said.

IN BRIEF

Adopt natural farming to protect soil quality: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the experiments of natural farming in Surat district of Gujarat. Virtually addressing a conclave on natural farming held in Surat on Sunday, Mr. Modi said Surat's success in connecting 75 farmers in every panchayat with natural farming is going to become an example for the country.

AMU proposes to confer degree on Saudi Prince

GHAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to confer an honorary Doctor of Letters (D. Litt) degree on the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, popularly called MBS. The proposal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the role of the AMU in India's outreach towards fostering better ties with the Islamic world.

Govt. to hold national apprenticeship fair today

NEW DELHI

The Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry has said it will organise a national apprenticeship fair on Monday as part of the Prime Minister's Skill India Mission to ensure career opportunities and training for the country's youth. The one-day event will be conducted at 200 locations across the country. PTI

Sown area of paddy rises marginally

Centre asks States to encourage farmers to increase cultivation citing the global demand for grain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The area sown with paddy rose marginally from that of the previous week, but was 23.95% less than in the corresponding period of last year, according to data collected by the Crop Division of the Union Agriculture Ministry till July 8.

The difference in the area coverage from the 2021 figure is 22.75 lakh hectares. Sowing of pulses such as black gram and yellow split pigeon pea has decreased, while the cultivation of green gram (*moong dal*) has increased by 37.47% and other pulses by 135.12%.

The Ministry has been maintaining that it is too early to suggest a decrease in paddy cultivation in the States during this kharif season.

Steep fall: The difference in the area coverage from the 2021 figure is 22.75 lakh hectares. • AM FARUQUI

Farmers' organisations, on the other hand, have been claiming that scarcity of water and fertilizers is forcing farmers to reduce the sowing of paddy.

Till July 1, the decrease in area was about 27%.

Chhattisgarh showed a decrease of about 6.1 lakh hectares, while the area in Punjab is down by 4.8 lakh hectares. In Madhya Pradesh, there has been a decrease by 4.6 lakh hectares.

Madhya Pradesh showed the most decrease – by 22.4 lakh hectares – in the sowing of all kharif crops, while Rajasthan increased cultivation by about 25 lakh hectares till July 8.

Oilseed cultivation

On total oilseeds too, the decrease in cultivation is more than 20%.

Groundnut and soyabean cultivation is down by 18.95% and 21.74%, respectively.

Farmers seem to have preferred to sow sunflower during this kharif season as its cultivation has increased by about 43%, though the acreage is just about 1.16 lakh hectares.

Among coarse cereals, Bajra has shown an increase of about 79.26%, while the cultivation of jowar, ragi, maize and small millets have significantly reduced as compared to last year's cultivation.

The Centre has been asking the States to encourage farmers to cultivate paddy, citing the global demand for the foodgrain. It has been pushing for nutrition security by asking farmers to raise coarse cereals.

The increasing prices of edible oils due to import dependence had given tough moments for the Centre recently.

'Renewable energy to reduce revenues'

Major developing countries are highly dependent on fossil fuel, says IISD study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The global transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources could trigger financial challenges for India and major developing countries such as Russia, Brazil and China because of their high dependence on revenues from fossil fuel, according to a study by the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).

Though India is a net importer of petroleum products, it earns substantial revenues – via cesses and taxes – from the consumption of petrol, diesel and oil.

The study finds that by 2050, overall fossil fuel revenues in Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, India and China could be as much as $570 billion, lower than a business-as-usual scenario where governments fail to phase down fossil fuels enough to avoid the worst climate impacts.

The widest gaps are expected to occur in India ($178 billion), China ($140 billion), and Russia ($134 billion).

Public revenues from fossil fuel production and consumption currently account for 34% of general government revenue in Russia, 18% in India, and 16% in Indonesia. The share stands at 8% in Brazil, and 6% in South Africa. This includes only direct, first-order, government financial revenues.

By comparison, such revenues form a smaller fraction of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in developed countries.

'Unreliable, erratic'

Fossil fuel revenue streams, the IISD report noted, were "unreliable and erratic" and undermined by the negative economic impacts of fossil fuel use, such as health costs due to air pollution and damage from climate change.

NDRF starts security audit of ropeways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) has begun a nationwide survey of passenger cable cars and ropeway systems to find out possible security flaws in them.

The move comes against the backdrop of at least three reported ropeway accidents that took place in Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh this year.

IIT-K setting up air-quality sensors

It will install 1,400 units in U.P., Bihar

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

To bolster measurement of air pollution in rural India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is embarking on a $2.5-million project to install nearly 1,400 sensors in the rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The three-year project is expected to be a pilot that, going ahead, could pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.

The NCAP aims to achieve 30% air pollution reduction by 2024. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"The outcomes from this network will help local communities, policy makers and researchers understand the ground situation. Data from this network will also be made available in real-time to enable actionable and evidence-based decision-making," said Sachidanand Tripathi, project leader and Professor at IIT-Kanpur.

Air pollution in India is largely framed as an urban blight though causes of pollution, such as biomass burning and reliance on diesel generators for electricity, are worsening air quality in villages too.

In 2019, the government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to reduce particulate matter air pollution by 20-30% by 2024. This, however, is primarily aimed at 122 cities that have been categorised as India's most polluted cities. At its launch, government officials had committed to increasing the network of rural air pollution monitoring sensors but little progress has been made on that front. Despite having several cities in the world's list of the most polluted cities in the world, India still has very few sensors relative to the size of its population due to which the magnitude of the air pollution crisis is obscured.

Cities, because of their population density and industrial establishments, continue to be the overwhelming source of emissions. The country's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m3) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre.

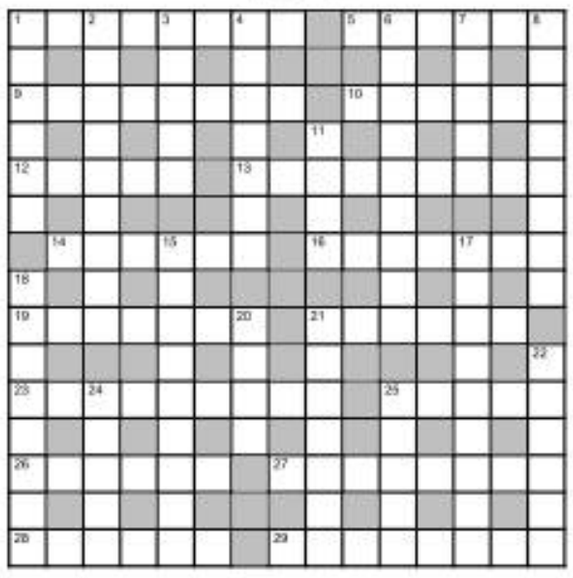
Under NCAP, ₹375.44 crore was provided to 114 cities from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and ₹290 crore was allocated to 82 cities for the financial year 2021-22. The programme has an allocation of ₹700 crore envisaged for 2021-26.

TH CROSSWORD + 13605

(set by Lightning)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Brave person covering a prohibition – it could be hot (8)
5 Orderly structure of felted cloth (6)
9 Damage elbow clutching spot of heating tube (8)
10 At home returning help with new person from our country (6)
12 Alcoholic beverage daughter exchanged with ace at the present time (5)
13 Contract curtailed – Italy upset inordinately (9)
14 Perhaps crane that is one below par (6)
16 Draw a gun beside opening to pilot's seat (7)
19 A month with movement to be free of germs (7)
21 Resistance to replace national talk for trade (6)
23 Fabricate unpleasant (not grand) catalogue (9)
25 Decrease gold furnishings (5)
26 Beliefs of a number of aliens (6)
27 Luring hospital department with unnecessary addition (8)
28 Comment about old Germany currency (6)
29 One skilled with knives catching primarily tropical fish (8)

Down

1 Traits of sailor participating in strikes (6)
2 Ancestry – it's essential to life by the way (9)
3 Nail puppy regularly threw away is cold (5)
4 Sharp reply by king and emperor published for the most part (7)
6 Can one urn be turned for a person calling plays? (9)
7 Downpour falling short thanks to dish (5)
8 Mostly present teetotaller with one celebratory artifact (8)
11 Does it seem compact primarily? (4)
15 Dare not to reset explosive device (9)
17 Recommend beer – crisp blend (9)
18 Mexican is terribly smuggling container (8)
20 Caught large number with lump of material (4)
21 Run through opening by old mesh (7)
22 Dominating person to pull individual nearly (6)
24 Have no mercy showcasing spitefulness (5)
25 Appliance is a small cube without right resistance (5)

SUDOKU

						7		
			8	9		3	1	
1								8
		9		7	5		6	
3								4
	6		3	8		9		
9								5
	7	1		3	4			
		5						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13604

	C	R	A	S	A	G	P	
G	A	P	E	S	T	E	E	R
	S	P	T	C	M	O	O	
S	H	E	A	T	H	R	E	C
		R	M	E	H	N		
A	B	S	T	R	A	C	T	A
	R	E			E	I		S
J	A	V	E	L	I	N	P	R
	C			N	C		E	E
P	E	D	A	L	S	A	D	M
		P	I	R	I	A		
E	S	C	A	R	G	O	T	M
	T	C	N	O	O	O	A	
M	O	T	H	I	R	O	N	S
	P	E	A	N	A	H	K	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	1	4	3	6	8	5	7
3	6	5	7	8	1	2	9	4
7	8	4	5	9	2	1	3	6
2	1	7	8	4	3	5	6	9
6	9	8	2	5	7	4	1	3
4	5	3	6	1	9	7	2	8
1	4	6	9	2	8	3	7	5
5	7	2	3	6	4	9	8	1
8	3	9	1	7	5	6	4	2

FAITH

The Narayana Tatva

Ramanuja has extracted the core essence of Upanishad teachings and formulated the Visishtadvaita philosophy, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. The central gist of this school of thought is the supremacy of the Brahman which is shown to be the Narayana Tatva. He, who is always with Goddess Sri, Sriman Narayana, is the Lord of the entire creation which is His sarira. Every soul's final destination is to seek His feet and reach His abode from which there is no return. This siddhanta urges every jivatma to understand the difference between atma and body, its prime duty which is to pay obeisance to the highest deity and seek His feet and thereby get released from cycle of birth.

To gain clarity in esoteric matters, especially when there are passages that are contradictory in the Upanishads, Ramanuja went to Kashmir to study the Bodhayana Vritti which is the explanation of the Brahma Sutra of Vyasa. Many have written commentaries on the Brahma Sutra – Adi Sankara, Madhvacharya, Ramanuja and others. Ramanuja does not see these Upanishad statements as contradictory; to him these only appear contradictory. He is able to reconcile all different perspectives and come to the conclusion that the Upanishads proclaim only one truth.

The acharya asserts that Brahman is without a second even as the Advaita system states. But unlike the Advaita theory that sees Brahman as Nirguna and without a form, Ramanuja sees Brahman as full of auspicious attributes and with 'aprakrita' form to enable jivatmas worship and seek Him. The Gita also draws attention to the Vedas that speak of many deities who have the potential to grant the wishes of the jivatmas. But actually it is the Lord, who is the indwelling presence in all creation, who grants these wishes.

Citizens flock to Sri Lanka's power centres

People make their way to the presidential palace in 'regulated' long queues; Presidential Secretariat resembles a public park

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sunday was nothing like Saturday near Colombo's seafront.

It was much less crowded, but still teeming with people. They were curiously surveying the Presidential Secretariat and official residence, a day after outraged demonstrators captured and occupied the iconic colonial-era structures, in a stunning finale to a season of protests in crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

In their smiling faces, a sense of accomplishment appeared to have displaced anger as they walked through the sites of unbridled executive power that have now become symbols of their resistance to it. "I was here yesterday, too. The rally was historic. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see and be part of such a massive protest to dislodge our leaders," said Masha Munaweera, a 34-year-old banker. She was back at the site, along with her mother. "She too wanted to see this change," Ms. Munaweera said, cautiously adding: "I really hope they [President and PM] do resign. There is some concern they may try to hold on to power. Let's see."

Selfie point: Visitors are seen taking pictures against protest graffiti outside the presidential palace in Colombo on Sunday. • MEERA SRINIVASAN

The scepticism is widely shared among citizens who had hoped for change. All the same, they were keen to savour the moment, and partake in the new hope it has brought.

The presidential palace, until 48 hours ago, was a high-security area, with barricades keeping passers-by an entire lane away. From not being able to get even a glimpse of the building, people were thronging its gates on Sunday, as its new occupants tried to regulate a very large and excited crowd. "Please bear with us. We are trying to send you all inside in batches to make it manageable," said a man seated on top of the high compound wall. Through the fences, long queues of people could be seen making their way in, to see for themselves the different spots at Mr. Gotabaya's former home, seen in the unbelievable, now viral, videos of citizens taking a dip in the pool, cooking a meal, or relaxing in a luxury couch.

Just outside, the walls by the large iron gates at the top of the lane are now filled with protest graffiti after Saturday's takeover by demonstrators. Screaming 'Go home Gota', 'Go Gota Jail', 'Power to the people beyond Parliament' in black font, they are now popular backdrops for photographs. At the nearest junction, dozens were queuing up to climb a clock tower, as protest music blared through speakers kept on the road.

'Beginning of a new era'

A few yards away, the Presidential Secretariat, whose entrance was occupied by protesters for months, now resembles a public park hosting a carnival, with families seated in its lawns, a day after protesters broke its iron fences and stormed the building.

The main steps at the entrance was crowded with people, some waving flags, others marvelling at the view of the ocean facing the building, and some others taking pictures of the building, or of themselves in it. Protesters have set up a library at the space that was once the President's office. Others were rushing in to see it.

Jacob Fernando was holding a Sri Lankan flag and posing for a picture in front of the building. "This is unbelievable. I just wanted to be here today. This is the beginning of a new era for our country," the 18-year-old said. Just outside though, protesters were still agitating, for the 93rd day, asking Mr. Gotabaya to resign. For them, the struggle was not over. "Ayya [older brother, referring to former PM Mahinda Rajapaksa] tsunami, malli [younger brother Mr. Gotabaya] corona," they chanted, as crowds repeated one of the popular slogans of the mass agitations.

About 2 km south, Temple Trees, the official residence of the PM which was also occupied on Saturday, was as crowded. Many were seated on the walls, waving at passers-by. Rows of vehicles were parked outside, and families walked into the building, taking a break from the crisis. The crisis that led citizens to mount an unprecedented protest, occupy the buildings, and oust their powerful occupants.

A file photo of Chinese and Pakistani troops taking part in a joint war drill in Jhelum, Pakistan. • AP

China, Pak. begin war games off Shanghai

Drills aimed at countering maritime threat

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China and Pakistan on Sunday began four-day naval exercises off the coast of Shanghai, involving Pakistan's most advanced China-built frigate and paving the way for closer security cooperation between the two countries in the Indian Ocean.

The drills, the two countries said, were aimed at "jointly dealing with maritime security threats". The PLA Eastern Theater Command Navy said the frigate Xiangtan, corvette Shuozhou, supply ship Qiandaohu, two fighter jets and a submarine would participate, the Communist Party-run *Global Times* reported.

Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military expert, told the paper the two countries "need to jointly demonstrate their capabilities in safeguarding strategic sea lanes that transport energy and goods".

The exercises are the second edition of Sea Guardians, following drills held in January 2020 in the Arabian Sea off Karachi.

Pakistan's Navy said its second Type 054A frigate built by China, Taimur, which was delivered to them in Shanghai last month, would take part in the drill.

The first Type 054A, Tughril, was commissioned last year. Pakistan's envoy to China Moil Ul Haque then told Chinese media that the commissioning of the frigate "in the context of the overall security paradigm of the region" would "strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region".

Gen. Bajwa's China visit

The drills this week followed the visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa to China last month, where he held talks with China's top-ranking General, Zhang Youxia, who is Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission headed by President Xi Jinping.

General Zhang said China was "willing to strengthen communication, reinforce cooperation, deepen pragmatic exchanges with Pakistan" as well as "properly deal with the complicated factors in regional situation", and described the relationship as "unbreakable and rock-solid."

Two bar shootings leave 19 dead in South Africa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

Nineteen people were killed after armed assailants randomly shot at patrons in two bars in South Africa in separate incidents denounced by the President as "unacceptable and worrying".

In Soweto, 15 people – among them two women – were killed as they enjoyed a night out, police said, when assailants pulled up in a minibus taxi and began randomly firing at drinkers.

In the eastern city of Pietermaritzburg, four people were killed and eight wounded in a bar when two men fired indiscriminately at customers.

Shootings are common in South Africa, a country with one of the world's highest murder rates, fuelled by gang violence and alcohol.

"As a nation, we cannot allow violent criminals to terrorise us in this way," President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement.

Japan's ruling coalition set to win polls

This comes two days after Abe's assassination

REUTERS
TOKYO

Japan's ruling coalition was projected to keep its majority in the upper house of parliament on Sunday, two days after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a dominant politician and power broker.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), of which Abe was a senior figure, and its junior coalition partner Komeito were on track to win between 69 and 83 of the 125 seats in Sunday's vote, according to an exit poll by public broadcaster NHK.

Official results are expected on Monday.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving modern leader, was gunned down on Friday during a speech in support of a local candidate in the western city of Nara, a killing the political establishment condemned as an attack on democracy itself.

A voter casting her ballot at a polling station in Tokyo on Sunday. • AFP

Analysts predicted the assassination would boost the LDP, led by PM Fumio Kishida, an Abe protege. The party was projected to win 59 to 69 of the Upper House seats, according the exit poll, up from the 55 it held previously.

Reaching 69 seats would give the LDP a majority on its own, a threshold seen as a stretch before Abe's killing.

"Former Prime Minister Abe, who came to support me, was shot in an act of terrorism in the midst of our election campaign," LDP candidate Kei Sato said after NHK projected he would win his seat in Nara prefecture. Abe was stumping for Sato when he was shot.

BRICS media groups look to boost synergy

Amid new challenges, initiatives include training of journalists, exploring new tech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BEIJING

Prominent media groups from the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries on Friday committed to stepping up dialogue and finding ways to generate strong synergies as they confront new common challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

An action plan released following the Fifth BRICS Media Forum "committed to supporting and facilitating" BRICS media organisations through a range of initiatives, from joint training of journalists to exploring the application of new technologies, such as smart content production, smart broadcasting, satellite news, and AI anchors.

The Forum was established in 2015 by media organisations from the five countries, including *The Hindu*, Brazil's CMA Group, Russia's Sputnik, China's Xinhua and South Africa's Independent Media.

China is the BRICS chair this year, with President Xi Jinping last month hosting the 14th BRICS leaders summit virtually, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other BRICS leaders. Xinhua, which hosted the media forum this year, said Friday's virtual gathering was attended by nearly 300 representatives of over 170 media organisations from 73 developing countries.

'Period of turbulence'

N. Ram, a member of the Presidium of the BRICS Media Forum representing *The Hindu* and Director, The Hindu Publishing Group, told the forum it was "our common understanding that this is a new period of turbulence as well as of transformation."

"It is a time of unprecedented changes and of the evolution of a pandemic that has wreaked havoc, on many fronts, on an unaccustomed global scale but may be reaching an end, so much so that we can hopefully begin soon to address a post-pandemic situation," Mr. Ram said.

"In this pursuit, the BRICS Partnership, which has been forged through 14 BRICS Summits held since June 2009, represents a highly positive force with a special part to play."

He pointed to the recently held BRICS International Journalism Online Training Programme, conducted over three months, as an example of practical cooperation that brought in experienced journalists and scholars from the five BRICS countries to give lectures supplemented by assignments to 25 trainees drawn from these countries.

Since the launch of the BRICS Media Forum in 2015, the grouping had held four forums and five presidium meetings in Beijing, Cape Town and Sau Paulo, said Fu Hua, President of Xinhua News Agency, adding that "as the world enters yet another period of turbulence and transformation, BRICS media need to inject more positive energy into the world... and further expand the space for exchange, cooperation and interaction among BRICS media organisations."

Jose Juan Sanchez, President of CMA Group in Brazil, said COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis presented "a series of challenges but more responsibilities" to explain the impact on the world economy, particularly from the perspective of emerging countries.

Iqbal Surve, Executive Chairman of the Independent Media Group in South Africa, which will take over as BRICS' host next year, pointed to the potential for greater digital cooperation. "Many of our BRICS partners," he said, "lead the global charge in the fourth industrial revolution."

'Uber lobbied, used kill switch to block scrutiny'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

As Uber aggressively pushed into markets around the world, the ride-sharing service lobbied political leaders to relax labour and taxi laws, used a "kill switch" to thwart regulators and law enforcement, channelled money through Bermuda and other tax havens and considered portraying violence against its drivers as a way to gain public sympathy, according to a report released on Sunday.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, a nonprofit network of investigative reporters, scoured internal Uber texts, emails, invoices and other documents to deliver the report.

The investigation found that Uber used "stealth technology" to fend off government investigations. The company, for example, used a "kill switch" that cut access to Uber servers and blocked authorities from grabbing evidence during raids in six countries.

In a written statement, Uber spokesperson Jill Hazelbaker acknowledged "mistakes" in the past. She said CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, hired in 2017, had been "tasked with transforming how Uber operates... When we say Uber is a different company today, we mean it literally: 90% of current Uber employees joined after Dara became CEO."

15 killed as Ukraine building hit by rocket

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

At least 15 people were killed when a Russian rocket hit an apartment building in the eastern Ukraine town of Chasiv Yar and more than 20 people may still be trapped in the rubble, officials said on Sunday.

The Saturday night rocket assault is the latest in a recent burst of high-casualty attacks on civilian structures. At least 19 people died when a Russian missile hit a shopping mall Kremenchuk in late June and 21 people were killed when an apartment building and recreation area came under rocket fire in the southern Odesa region this month.

Russia has repeatedly claimed that it is hitting only targets of military value in the war. There was no comment on Chasiv Yar at a Russian Defense Ministry briefing on Sunday.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, Governor of the Donetsk region that includes Chasiv Yar, said the town of about 12,000 was hit by Uragan rockets, which are fired from truck-borne systems.

The Ukrainian emergency services later said the death toll had risen to 15 and that an estimated two dozen people were under the wreckage. Rescuers made voice contact with three people trapped in the rubble, it said. Chasiv Yar is about 20 km southeast of Kramatorsk.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKHSAY S/O Ashruba Devkate born on 5th July 1998 residing at V.V.11/10 aditya nagar rajashree cement works, have changed my name to Akshay vide affidavit dated 28th June 2022 at Kalaburgi.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nilesh Jhaveri R/o 196/2, 2nd Main, Anantharamaiah Compound Mysore Road Bangalore 560018 have changed my minor daughter's name from Prisha Jhaveri to Prisha Nilesh Jhaveri for all purposes.

EDUCATIONAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri R. Srinivasa Reddy** S/o late Rama Reddy, Presently R/at No. 341-2T, Ramaiah Garden, 1st Cross, Hulimavu, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru - 560076 has entered into a registered Agreement of Sale **dated 01-10-2018** vide **Doc. No. BNG(U)SSK/8761/2018-19** with **Sri A.M. Ramesh Reddy S/o A.P. Muniyappa Reddy**, R/at No. 258, 7th Cross, 27th Main, Sector- I, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 102 to purchase the Villa/residential **Unit No. D-10**, formed in two bits of land i.e., 1A-10G + 1 A- 10 G) in Sy. No. 13/3 (Old No. 13/1 totally measuring **2 A- 20 G**, situated at Kada Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, as per the Schedule mentioned below for a valuable sale consideration mentioned therein, and paid substantial part sale consideration amount to aforesaid vendor, same is acknowledged and confirmed by him. And said registered agreement of sale still subsist and in force for all practical purpose, hence this public notice.

Any Person/Society/Firm or any other body, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim on the below mentioned schedule property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post acknowledgment due along with the supporting documentary proof, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY
(AS PER THE AGREEMENT OF SALE DATED 01/10/2018)

All that the piece and parcel of East facing Villa/residential Unit No. D-10 which is under construction in Schedule 'A' property measuring 2780 Sq.Ft of built area and bounded on:
East by : Drive way.
West by : Property of Sy. No. 13/5 (Old No. 13/1).
North by: Unit No. D9.
South by : Unit No. D11.

N. VEERABHADRAIAH
Advocate, 10th Floor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bengaluru-27. Mob: 94483 88949.
e-mail: (corrngm@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client **SRI. KAMALAKSHA KINI**, aged about 75 years, son of late Sri.A.Shankar Kini, residing at No.289, 15th Main, R.M.V Extension, Bangalore-560080 has represented to me that he is the sole and absolute owner of the agricultural lands comprised in several Survey Nos of Uchalagollahalli Village and Chanikamattenahalli Village, Thondebhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District which are more particularly described in the Schedule here under. My client further informs me that the original documents of title including the original of the sale deeds executed and registered in his favour as listed below and connected records in respect of the Schedule lands are not traceable and inspite of his best efforts, he is unable to retrieve the same till date. In this regard, my client had lodged a complaint with the Inspector of Police, Sadashivanagar Police Station, Bangalore on 30/06/2022 vide Lost Report No.0257722/2022. If any one were to trace all or more of the said original title deeds and connected records, they are called upon to deliver the same to the undersigned within a period of **ten days** from the date of this notice. If any person/s were to deal with the said original title deeds other than with the aforesaid owner, such transactions will not bind the aforesaid owner or the Schedule Property and such person/s will be doing so at his/her/their own risk, and cost and further appropriate legal proceedings will be initiated against such person/s.

Details of the Sale Deed in Original as indicated above

1. Sale deed dated 28/12/2006 executed by Sri.M.Thippaiah in favour of Sri.Kamalaksha Kini, which has been duly registered as Document No.GBD-1-03072/2006-07 in Book – I, stored in CD No.GBDD17 with the Sub-Registrar, Gowribidanuru on 06/02/2007
2. Sale deed dated 28/12/2006 executed by Sri.Muniyappa in favour of Sri.Kamalaksha Kini, which has been duly registered as Document No.GBDR-1-03071/2006-07 in Book – I, stored in CD No.GBDD 17 with the Sub-Registrar, Gowribidanuru

SCHEDULE

Agricultural Lands located in **Uchalagollahalli Village and Chanikamattenahalli Village, Thondebhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.**

SL.No	Survey No.	Total Extent in Acre -Gunta
1	8/2	3-04
2	10/1B1	5-25
3	10/2	1-20
4	11/2	6-24
5	20/2	5-21
6	21/5(Old Sy.No 21/3)	1 – 3 ½
7	30/4 (Old Sy.No.30)	2-20
8	19-Chanikamattenahalli Village	6-35

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ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I am an 18-year-old currently investing in an SIP of ₹2,500 per month. I earn ₹6,000 per month and want to diversify my portfolio, but I am confused about where else to invest it.

SANGHAMITRA S

A. As a young investor, we presume you have started SIPs in equity funds. If you have a time frame of more than 5 and preferably over 7 years, consider investing in a combination of Nifty, Nifty 500 and Nifty Midcap 150 index funds, as your savings grow. You can also add PPF for your tax-saving needs as it will give you deduction under Section 80C and also provide some debt exposure with a safe government option.

Q. I am 19 years old. I still do not earn anything. But I want to have a clear idea about mutual funds and investment in the stock market. I want to acquire concrete knowledge about investments in mutual funds and the stock market so that I can invest later.

SOUMYADIP GUHA

A. It is good to know that you want to learn about investing at a young age. You can consider reading books such as *Let's Talk Money by Monika Halan* and *You can be rich too: With Goal Based Investing (P.V. Subramanyam and M .Pattabiraman)* to know the basics of money and financial planning. You can go to mutual fund websites to know the basics of mutual funds.

Understanding the stock market comes only by observing and investing. Start with reading business newspapers and try to track a few companies, their annual reports, quarterly results and news on them. Go to websites like the one from Professor Aswath Damodaran to seriously learn how to build valuation models. If stock market isn't your thing, stick to mutual funds.

Importantly, do not get too swayed by the 'easy money' talk that you will hear all around you, once you get into this world. Like any other journey, the financial journey also takes time to travel. There will be no short cuts that social media may want you to believe.

Q. I am a 22-year-old new graduate about to join a private firm. I will get ₹60,000 in hand as salary. I want to buy health insurance for my family as well as life insurance for me. Since I have very little understanding of finance, please suggest how and what I can do within my capacity.

ANANT KUMAR

K. Nitya Kalyani replies: In investment in general and insurance in particular, it is prudent to start young. Correctly, your first stop is health insurance and you should explore what your employer is offering. Usually, your family members can also be covered under your employer's group health policy and you will find that the coverage is reasonably good and the premium, very competitive.

If your employer does not offer health insurance, please buy an independent hospitalisation policy from a general insurance or health insurance company, preferably one you have dealt with before and with whose services you are comfortable.

If you are looking for fresh options for insurers, spend a bit of time reading up to pick the right company. What you need is a company large enough and financially strong enough to sustain paying claims over decades. It should have a reputation for paying claims fairly and swiftly, while offering good customer service and policy options. Track solvency ratios for financial strength and claims settlement ratios for the first two factors and word of mouth from your friends and family circles for the latter.

Take a view on how much coverage you will need and your premium-paying ability.

If you are taking coverage for your parents, then make that a separate cover or you will pay a higher premium for yourself too on account of their age. If you need to cover younger family members, namely wife and children, that can be in the same policy. One way to stretch your premium value is by taking a floater policy if you are able to take the view that the floater sum insured will be sufficient for all claims made by all the insured people in a policy year.

As for life policy, the best advice we can give you is to take a no-frills term policy. Decide the sum assured on how much premium you can afford now, and you can always supplement it with another term policy once your needs and affordability increase. As for the term of the policy, decide it based on the projected age and financial conditions of your intended beneficiaries.

For example, if your parents are in their early fifties now and you want to ensure they are supported till their time, let us say mid-80s, then take a term policy for 35 years, that is till your age 57. Or round it off to your age 60 and so on. Similarly, if you want the policy to support your wife and children as well, make the appropriate calculations.

Remember, a term policy gives you only life coverage, and some may offer you return of premium on maturity.

Once that is done, you have created protection for your family and can invest the rest of your money with a view to maximising returns without upsetting basic protection. Or, indeed, you can spend your money with a little less tension!

(Vidya Bala is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in

K. Nitya Kalyani is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

•GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

The art of protecting value in your holdings

Some signals help you spot companies that can expand valuation multiples. Here are a few...

G.R. BALAJI

As economies around the world enter tighter monetary cycles, it is common to see downward revisions in exit valuation multiples for companies across sectors. An exit multiple is the price-to-earnings ratio for a company estimated for a point in time in the future, that is, the multiple it would command were it to sell out or exit the business at a given point.

Recently, we saw large global institutions downgrading India's information technology sector, wherein they had cut the target prices significantly across stocks.

A close look at the reports tells us that these institutions had lowered the earnings estimates by only up to 5%, but reduced the multiple by 14-35%. Close to 80% of the target price cut is from multiple reductions.

To mitigate such shock in our portfolio and reduce risk as part of our investment framework, let us explore the factors for businesses where potential exit multiples can expand or stay the same even during a tightening monetary cycle.

An improved balance sheet is a positive signal. When a company repays its long-term debt and moves to zero debt with higher cash balance, it potentially allows such firms to take long-term decisions and not worry about daily capital requirement. The longevity of a business goes up significantly. We have seen how important balance-sheet strength is during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Quality of earnings

As the quality of earnings goes up, it reduces long-term survival risk. Companies are valued based on one big assumption – that they get to survive during all economic cycles.

So, companies that have mastered one or more of the following tend to have higher survival rates: those whose percentage of recurring revenue significantly improves and crosses a major threshold; or, whose significant new sales are accomplished via on-cash channels due to improved competitive position vis-a-vis credit sale; or whose growth is balanced both in terms of geography and product; and companies that are consistently able to reduce concentration risk of the top 5 or 10 clients - this is particularly important for B2B companies whose sector is facing consolidation.

Fewer sales cycles

Products that do not have to face sales cycles that go up and down help raise the value for a company. Take the case of a consumer durables company that dominates the air cooler market - which is very seasonal - moving to other products such as home appliances, to reduce the cyclical nature of revenue across quarters. It helps them manage the fixed operating cost.

Improved prospects

New business verticals that are less cyclical is a welcome change. An insurance company that was heavily dependent on product sales linked to capital markets moving aggressively, adding products that are typically not impacted due to adverse movement in capital markets, is an example.

Every industry goes through an inflection point when growth gets accelerated. For example, demat accounts in India accelerated post-COVID, which led to a sharp re-rating for businesses dealing in capital markets. In such cases, either terminal growth is higher or the higher growth phase is extended beyond just a few years.

We have seen strong multiples expansion in engineering R&D companies servicing emerging businesses such as EVs, as the outlook for the end-market is very strong, leading to either sustainable higher growth or companies whose competitiveness has improved.

Industrial manufacturing companies wanting to use India as a base for global exports due to cost competitiveness, which led to sharp re-rating of valuation multiples, is an example.

A company that needs lesser capital to grow in future can command higher multiples. Asian Paints had generated ₹4,300 crore of cumulative cash flow in FYs 2003-12 and had re-invested ₹2,065 crore - approximately 48% of the cash-flow - to maintain and grow the business.

In the subsequent nine years, the cumulative cash from operations stood at ₹18,851 crore (approximately fourfold growth compared with the previous decade), but it needed to invest only ₹6,149 crore back in the business (approximately 33% of the cash flow).

The average multiple expanded significantly during this time and is partially attributable to lower capital requirement for future growth. Higher free cash flow can help incubate new growth opportunities and rewards shareholders more liberally which results in higher present value.

Improved capital efficiency

As companies attain a mature state in their business, most of them start paying out higher in terms of dividend or via buybacks.

This can result in better long-term multiples as long-term investment risk goes down substantially with higher payouts. Several IT companies, a few FMCG and auto companies have increased their payout ratio in recent years.

Though their growth rates tend to behave in line with a mature business, they command a better multiple as they pay out close to 90% of profits.

For example, Infosys's profit has risen 1.5 times in the last 5 years, but equity capital has grown only about 1.1 times.

All the incremental growth has come from marginal incremental capital. Incremental ROCE is significantly higher than for the overall current business.

Companies that have scaled better with every cycle can command higher multiples. When a company scales up and creates sustainable large cash flows, it can result in higher chances of survival during a downturn. Only 300-odd companies make more than ₹500 crore of profit in a year.

Even though we have 3,900-odd companies listed and whose shares are available for trading, companies making more than ₹500 crore in profit is a rare and prestigious achievement. They tend to get the attention that large institutions command, for long-term investing.

Expanding total addressable market (TAM) is a good sign. Companies such as Astral Poly, which gained scale in its core business (as plastic pipes TAM expanded to ₹35,000 crore), used the free cash flow to enter adjacent businesses such as adhesives, tanks and paint (TAM ₹1 lakh crore), which led to a significant re-rating of stock due to strong execution of core. When TAM expands, it supports the terminal growth rate which potentially leads to higher exit multiples.

Consistent execution

It is always interesting to see the second or the third-ranked player in an industry delivering better than the top company in terms of business growth, capital productivity and improved competitiveness.

In the last few years, we have witnessed ICICI Bank and Infosys delivering much better than large comparable peers both in terms of growth and profitability, and this has led to significant re-rating and bridged the discount over the top stock in the industry close to zero.

As capital allocators, it is important for companies to preserve and grow their capital during periods of macroeconomic uncertainty.

Happy Investing!!!

(The writer is head of research and co-fund manager, ithought PMS)

COVER NOTE: INSURANCE JARGON

There's more to what meets the eye

Even a 'voluntary deductible' against which you get a discount in premium isn't a freebie you are getting

K. NITYA KALYANI

Continuing Cover Note's list of insurance terms that are not exactly what they seem, here is a mixed bag.

When an insurance policy offers a 'deductible', it kind of sounds good for you. However, it isn't, exactly. Even a 'voluntary deductible' against which you get a discount in premium isn't a freebie you are getting.

A deductible is a part of the claim that the insurance company won't pay. It will be specified upfront as a percentage of the claim, or a flat amount in each claim, and you have to foot that amount yourself. A deductible is a compulsory clause in some policies. Some policies even allow you to opt for a voluntary deductible for a premium discount.

You get what you pay for, and so, be alerted that the premium discount means a claims discount. As I have asked before in Cover Note, is the premium costly or the claim?

The deductible is also called 'excess,' and of course there can be a 'voluntary excess' as well. The normal meanings of these words indicate a benefit for you, but now you know what they are.

Deductibles are normally to be found in motor, health and property (fire, theft) policies which are indemnity policies; that is, they reimburse your actual expenses/ loss.

Benefit policies like life insurance policies, annuity policies, critical illness, personal accident and, indeed, liability policies do not have deductibles.

Now for a term that sounds bad, in fact terrible, for you, but it isn't. In fact, it's a delightfully good thing for you in the midst of a big loss. Constructive total loss. When you hear this term when your car insurance policy is being settled, don't write off that car which is, maybe, at the bottom of your local lake or river, or crushed under a massive tree that fell in the last cyclone.

Insurance 'excesses': Deductibles are found in motor, health and property policies which are indemnity policies. •GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

It doesn't mean that the insurance company is shrugging you off. What it is saying is that it is so costly to retrieve and repair your car, that they are just going to pay you the cost of an equivalent vehicle.

As they say, into every life, some rain must fall.

Some terms are bad and some good and some can mean the opposite of what they sound like. But some insurance terms have meanings that are merely a bit different.

'Different meanings'

A benefit policy, as we saw above, is one that has a pre-set flat sum you can claim when the insured event takes place. If one is diagnosed with cancer, the sum assured is paid. If one has an accident, the sum insured is paid. All this is regardless of the actual expenses.

In your hospitalisation insurance, there is a cover for domiciliary hospitalisation. It has brought much premature cheer to those who are considering the policy. Just hold on, for it does not mean your coughs and colds will be paid for. In other words, it is not domiciliary treatment aka outpatient treatment insurance.

Domiciliary hospitalisation means hospital treatment given at home. This has to be recommended by the treating doctor for reasons including lack of hospital beds or the medical inadvisability of shifting the patient to a hospital.

This clause was invoked during the peak case load periods of the COVID-19 pandemic, when treatment at home and also at make-shift facilities was the only option for thousands of patients as the hospital capacity was overwhelmed.

Let us finish this instalment of Cover Note with something that means exactly what it says. Yes, there are those too!

An automatic reinstatement clause, which can appear in a property insurance or health insurance policy, means this: when a part or the whole of the sum insured is used up on payment of a claim, the original policy coverage amount is reinstated, or topped up, usually only once in a policy year. This is a good clause to have on your health policy since coverage is not easy to come by and healthcare costs, which are already high, can explode in certain cases and you will not be bereft of coverage.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.90	5.35	6.90	6.90
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.30	6.00	6.00	6.00
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.60	6.90	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.20	6.70	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.90	6.75	6.75
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	5.75	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	6.50	6.25	6.50	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.00	5.30	6.00	6.00
DCB Bank	6.60	6.10	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
ICICI Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
IDFC First Bank	6.50	5.75	6.25	6.00
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.55	5.20	5.50	5.55
Karnataka Bank	5.50	5.35	5.50	5.50
Karur Vyasa Bank	5.80	5.40	5.65	5.80
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.50	5.90	5.90
Nainital Bank	5.60	5.55	5.60	5.60
RBL Bank	6.65	6.25	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	6.60	6.00	5.85	5.85
South Indian Bank	5.80	5.30	5.50	5.80
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	5.50	5.00	5.50	5.35
Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.35	5.35
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Canara Bank	5.75	5.30	5.70	5.75
Indian Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
Indian Overseas Bank	5.60	5.40	5.60	5.60
Punjab National Bank	5.80	5.30	5.50	5.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.55	5.25	5.55	5.55
State Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.45	5.50
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.25	6.25	7.00
HSBC Bank	5.50	3.10	4.00	4.00

FD rates as on July 7

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
	(in %)		
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	7.55-8.55	7.55-8.45	7.55-8.45
Bank of Baroda	7.45-8.95	7.45-8.95	7.45-9.20
Union Bank of India	7.40-9.15	7.40-9.35	7.40-9.35
Punjab National Bank	7.45-8.85	7.40-8.55	7.40-8.50
Bank of India	7.40-9.25	7.40-9.25	7.40-9.25
Canara Bank	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85
UCO Bank	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50
Indian Overseas Bank	7.95-8.30	8.05-8.30	8.20-8.30
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
ICICI Bank	7.60-8.20	7.60-8.35	7.60-8.45
Axis Bank	7.60-12.50	7.60-12.50	7.60-8.05
HSBC Bank	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20
South Indian Bank	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00
Karur Vyasa Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.89-9.14	7.89-9.14	7.89-9.24
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.95	7.95	7.95
Bandhan Bank	7.30-13.50	7.30-12.65	7.30-12.65
RBL Bank	10.30-12.00	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.00
CSB Bank	8.09	8.09	8.34
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50-8.60	7.50-8.80	7.50-9.00
HDFC Ltd.	7.55-8.75	7.55-9.00	7.55-9.10
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75
PNB Housing Finance	7.50-16.75	7.50-16.75	7.60-10.70
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.20	>=8.20	>=8.20
Repco Home Finance	>=7.70	>=7.70	>=7.70
Indiabulls Housing	>=7.60	>=7.60	>=7.60
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	7.49-10.99	7.49-10.99	7.49-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on July 6 *Source:Paisabazaar.com*

Suryakumar's sensational century not enough as England prevails

Malan and Livingstone set up the home team's consolation win before Topley's incisive bowling reins in the visitors; Men in Blue clinch the series 2-1

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOTTINGHAM

England grabbed a consolation win in the third and last T20I against India with a 17-run victory at Trent Bridge on Sunday.

Jos Buttler celebrated his first win as England's full-time white-ball captain and denied India a series sweep despite Suryakumar Yadav's 117 off 55 balls with 14 fours and six sixes.

England chose to bat first and scored 215 for seven, underpinned by Dawid Malan's 77 off 39 balls, but that was overshadowed as Suryakumar mixed belligerence with audacity in a stunning innings before holing out in the 19th over.

Sealing the win

India needed 21 in the final over but Chris Jordan sealed the win for England. The seamer took two wickets off the final three balls as the visitors finished at 198 for nine. India won the series 2-1.

Buttler had made an inauspicious start since succeeding Eoin Morgan, and England came into this match with question marks over its T20 batting.

The victory owed much to pacer Reece Topley's three for 22 in four overs, while David Willey and Jordan collected two wickets each after England had recorded an imposing total, thanks to Malan's knock and Liam Livingstone's 29-ball unbeaten 42.

- England added 129 in the final 10 overs
- Topley claimed three for 22 in four overs

In 10 previous T20 innings, Malan was without a half-century and averaged 21 with a strike-rate of 105. This was a return to form for the left-hander who crunched five sixes, three of them off Ravindra Jadeja.

Second-string attack

Livingstone did not manage any fours but muscled four sixes as England added 129 in the final 10 overs against a largely second-string India bowling attack.

India rested Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Yuzvendra Chahal as they had sealed the series on Saturday by winning the second T20I.

Mission accomplished: The Indian players strike a happy pose after winning the T20I series. *Right:* Suryakumar toyed with England's attack in his 55-ball 117. • AFP & GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jason Roy c Pant b Umran 27 *(26b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Jos Buttler b Avesh 18 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Dawid Malan c Pant b Bishnoi 77 *(39b, 6x4, 5x6)*, Phil Salt b Harshal 8 *(6b, 1x4)*, Liam Livingstone (not out) 42 *(29b, 4x6)*, Moeen Ali c Harshal b Bishnoi 0 *(1b)*, Harry Brook c Bishnoi b Harshal 19 *(9b, 3x4)*, Chris Jordan run out 11 *(3b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-5, nb-2): 13; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 215.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-31 (Buttler, 3.4 overs), 2-61 (Roy, 7.1), 3-84 (Salt, 9.3), 4-168 (Malan, 16.3), 5-169 (Moeen, 16.5), 6-197 (Brook, 18.5), 7-215 (Jordan, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Avesh 4-0-43-1, Umran 4-0-56-1, Bishnoi 4-0-30-2, Jadeja 4-0-45-0, Harshal 4-0-35-2.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Salt b Topley 11 (12b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Buttler b Topley 1 (5b), Virat Kohli c Roy b Willey 11 (6b, 1x4, 1x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Salt b Moeen 117 (55b, 14x4, 6x6), Shreyas Iyer c Buttler b Topley 28 (23b, 2x6), Dinesh Karthik lbw b Willey 6 (7b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Gleeson 7 (4b, 1x6), Harshal Patel c Gleeson b Jordan 5 (6b, 1x4), Avesh Khan (not out) 1 (1b), Ravi Bishnoi b Jordan 2 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-7, nb-1): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Pant, 1.1), 2-13 (Kohli, 2.4), 3-31 (Rohit, 4.6), 4-150 (Shreyas, 15.1), 5-166 (Karthik, 16.5), 6-173 (Jadeja, 17.3), 7-191 (Suryakumar, 18.5), 8-196 (Harshal, 19.4), 9-198 (Bishnoi, 19.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Willey 4-0-40-2, Topley 4-0-22-3, Gleeson 4-0-31-1, Jordan 4-0-37-2, Livingstone 2-0-36-0, Moeen 2-0-31-1.

Toss: England; **MoM:** Topley; **MoS:** Bhuvneshwar.

England won by 17 runs, India clinched series 2-1.

Next match: First ODI: July 12, The Oval, 5.30 p.m. IST.

'Wanted to see if our bowlers can bowl four overs'

It was a fantastic chase although we fell short, says India skipper Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOTTINGHAM

India captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday said the purpose of playing a second-string attack in the third T20I against England was to see "if they can bowl four overs."

Having already sealed the series, India had made three changes to their bowling attack, bringing in Umran Malik, Avesh Khan and Ravi Bishnoi in place of the senior bowlers who were rested.

Malik was the most expensive bowler with 56 runs in four overs as England posted 215 for seven. Bishnoi was the most successful bowler with two wickets for 30 runs in four overs.

"We were clear in trying out guys if they can bowl four overs. We have things to work on as a group.

"So far things are pretty good. We don't want to sit on laurels," Rohit said.

"We want to get better every game. Today was a great learning for us to come out and bowl. And to bat as well. Games like this will teach you."

Praise for Suryakumar

He was all praise for Suryakumar Yadav. "I thought it was a fantastic chase although we fell short. We are proud of the fight. Surya was magnificent to watch. I have been watching him for a while now. Loves this format, has wide range of shots. He has grown from strength to strength since we got him into the squad," he added.

England skipper Jos Buttler too praised Suryakumar.

"I thought we had a slightly above-par score. Unbelievable innings from SKY.

"I thought Reece Topley bowled into the wicket and took pace off really well. It was pleasing to see Gleeson back up with another performance."

Ice-cool Djokovic tames fiery Kyrgios in finale

The Serb wins his seventh Wimbledon title and 21st Grand Slam, moves a step closer to Nadal

Solving the puzzle: Once Djokovic started reading Kyrgios' serve better, there was no stopping him from the 'blade of grass' moment. • AFP & GETTY IMAGES

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WIMBLEDON

REUTERS
LONDON

Novak Djokovic stayed serene amid a frenzied atmosphere to tame fiery Australian Nick Kyrgios in an engrossing final on Sunday, lifting a seventh Wimbledon trophy and taking his Grand Slam title count to 21.

Rallying from a set down, Djokovic exhibited ice-cool nerves in sweltering conditions to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) for his fourth consecutive trophy at the grass-court Major to close in on Rafa Nadal's record 22 major crowns.

Competing in a men's record 32nd Slam final on a sun-bathed Centre Court, the 35-year-old was facing an unseeded opponent who had never been beyond the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam before this fortnight.

In their only two previous meetings, both in 2017, Djokovic did not win a set, did not once break the Kyrgios serve and had only a single break point opportunity.

Five years later, it was another sublime serving performance from the Australian in the early stages as he did not allow Djokovic any look at his delivery in the opening set, getting 77% of his first serves in and firing down seven aces.

A couple of well-disguised drop shots from Kyrgios helped him set up two break-points in the fifth game and a double fault from Djokovic brought up the first break of serve, which was enough for the unseeded Kyrgios to take the lead.

Djokovic's day out

- *4:* Djokovic is the fourth player in the Open era after Borg, Sampras and Federer to win four consecutive titles at Wimbledon
- *7:* The Serb's seventh Wimbledon title drew him level with Sampras. Federer holds the record of eight
- *19:* The men's singles title at The Championships has been won by the Big-4 (Djokovic, Federer, Nadal and Murray) in the last 19 editions. The last player other than the Big-4 to win was Hewitt (2002)
- *21:* Djokovic's Grand Slam titles, only Nadal has more (22) in the Open era

Entertaining the crowd

Focused from the start, Kyrgios, however, did not forget to entertain the crowd when he could. There was an underarm serve and he hit a return on the half volley between his legs to delight the Centre Court crowd.

No one, however, expected it to be an easy straight-set match with Djokovic having not lost a match on the manicured lawns at the All England Club since he retired injured during his 2017 quarterfinal against Czech Tomas Berdych.

Djokovic's delivery went up a gear and the Serb slowly but surely started demonstrating why he is considered the best returner in the sport. He would have been hoping to read the Kyrgios serve better and for his opponent's level to drop, and once it did in the fourth game of the second set, Djokovic was ready to pounce.

With Djokovic serving to level the match at one set apiece, however, Kyrgios raised his game to set up four break points, only for the top seed to save all of them and convert his first set point to leave the Australian fuming.

The Australian maverick was back to his usual hot-headed self during the third set as Djokovic started playing pristine tennis. Kyrgios got broken from 40-love up in the ninth game and went on to lose the set.

After both players failed to create a breakpoint in the fourth set, Djokovic dominated the tiebreaker to seal the issue. He then bent down to pluck some grass from the famous old court and taste it in characteristic style.

Congrats to you and your team for an amazing tournament. I really, really respect you a lot. I think you are a phenomenal tennis player

DJOKOVIC to Kyrgios

Leclerc wins Spielberg thriller

Edges Verstappen in a close race; Hamilton finishes third

AUSTRIAN GP

REUTERS
SPIELBERG

Charles Leclerc survived a late throttle scare to win the Austrian Grand Prix for Ferrari on Sunday and move back up as Max Verstappen's closest rival.

Red Bull's Verstappen was second, enjoying a 38-point lead over the Monegasque after 11 of 22 races. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton completed the podium for the third race in a row.

"I was scared. I was really scared," said a relieved Leclerc over the team radio after taking the chequered flag with Verstappen in his mirrors.

He overtook the Dutch driver three times in the race but feared the win might still slip away as he battled a throttle problem.

Leclerc's teammate Carlos Sainz had already retired with an engine failure, his car rolling to a halt and flames erupting from the rear with 14 laps to go.

The win was Leclerc's third of the season and the first time he won from anywhere other than pole position.

Alpine's Esteban Ocon was fifth, ahead of Mick Schumacher – who scored the first points of his F1 career at Silverstone last weekend – in sixth for Haas.

The German was voted the driver of the day.

Special one: Leclerc won from anywhere other than pole position for the first time in his career. • REUTERS

The results: 1. Leclerc (Ferrari), 1:24:24.312; 2. Verstappen (Red Bull), +1.532s; 3. Hamilton (Mercedes), +41.217; 4. Russell (Mercedes), +58.972; 5. Ocon (Alpine), +1:08.436.

+1 lap: 6. Schumacher (Haas), 7. Norris (McLaren), 8. Magnussen (Haas), 9. Ricciardo (McLaren), 10. Alonso (Alpine).

11. Bottas (Alfa Romeo), 12. Albon (Williams), 13. Stroll (Aston Martin), 14. Zhou (Alfa Romeo), 15. Gasly (AlphaTauri), 16. Tsuno (AlphaTauri), 17. Vettel (Aston Martin); **DNF:** Sainz Jr (Ferrari), Latifi (Williams), Perez (Red Bull).

Standings: Drivers (top-10): 1. Verstappen (208 points); 2. Leclerc (170), 3. Perez (151), 4. Sainz Jr (133), 5. Russell (128), 6. Hamilton (109), 7. Norris (64), 8. Ocon (52), 9. Bottas (46), 10. Alonso (29).

Constructors (top-5): 1. Red Bull (359), 2. Ferrari (303), 3. Mercedes (237), 4. McLaren (81), 5. Alpine (81).

Jungels clinches the ninth stage

Pogacar retains the yellow jersey

TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS
CHATEL (FRANCE)

Bob Jungels won the ninth stage of the Tour de France at the end of a long solo mountain raid on Sunday after COVID-19 almost prevented the Luxemburg rider from starting the race last week. The AG2R-Citroen rider tested positive on the eve of the start in Copenhagen last Thursday but was cleared to take part after doctors ruled that his viral load was low enough for him to ride.

Jungels prevailed from the day's breakaway in searing heat in the Alps after resisting a fierce chase by France's Thibaut Pinot.

Jonathan Castroviejo was second 22s behind Jungels with fellow Spaniard Carlos Verona ending up third.

Slovenian Tadej Pogacar retained the overall leader's yellow jersey, crossing the line just ahead of last year's runner-up Jonas Vingegaard after a short sprint to the line.

Super show: Jungels prevailed from the day's breakaway after resisting a fierce chase by Pinot. • REUTERS

Rajini, Sarvesh clinch fourth straight victory

Ahamed shows poise and aggression to snatch a dramatic win; Ryhana tops girls' race

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Rajini Krishnan and Sarvesh Balappa registered their fourth straight victory, while K.Y. Ahamed won an absolute thriller that lit up the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022, which concluded at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

Starting ninth for the eight-lap race in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open race, Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing), who endured two crashes on Saturday, showed poise and the required aggression to snatch a dramatic win from Pacer Yamaha's Mathana Kumar and Rajiv Sethu of Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing with just one-tenth of a second separating the trio at the finish.

Ryhana Bee, after a disappointing first round in Coimbatore last month, bounced back to win the National Championship girls' race (Stock 165cc) to put her campaign back on track.

She took the honours ahead of Bengaluru's Aditi Krishnan (Winverve Apex Racing Academy), who moved up a spot after second-placed Lani Zena Fernandez (Speed Up Racing) was given a 15-second penalty which, in turn, sent her down to fourth behind Axor Sparks Racing's Jagruti Penkar of Mumbai.

The best: Ahamed celebrates his victory in the Pro-Stock 165cc category, while Ryhana put her campaign on track after a disappointing first round in Coimbatore. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lani penalised

Lani was penalised for "causing avoidable collision" that involved early race leader Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing), who finished fifth.

Provisional results (six laps unless mentioned):

National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race 2, 8 laps): 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1, 15 min, 15.889sec); 2. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing, 15:26.410); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Petronas TVS Racing, 15:26.729).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race 2, 8 laps): 1. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing, 15:55.678); 2. Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha, 15:55.722); 3. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing, 15:55.726).

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race 2): 1. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing, 13:06.383); 2. Md. Samrul Zubair (Raceists Motorcycle Club, 13:08.978); 3. P. Vignesh Goud (Raceists Motorcycle Club, 13:10.293.

Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps): 1. Ryhana Bee (Pacer Yamaha, 11:01.483); 2. Aditi Krishnan (Winverve Apex Racing Academy, 11:51.191); 3. Jagruti Penkar (Axor Sparks Racing, 11:18.793).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup — NSF 250R (Race 2, 10 laps): 1. Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (18:45.396); 2. Mohsin Paramban (18:55.514); 3. Shyam Sundar (18:55.663).

Novice (CBR 150, Race 2): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (12:54.900); 2. Shyam Babu (13:27.093); 3. Harshith V. Bogar (13:27.429).

Support race — Hornet 2.0 (Race 2): 1. G. Balaji (13:32.712); 2. Kayan Zubin Patel (13:32.851); 3. Romario John (13:38.944).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship — Open (RR 310, Race 1): 1. P. Mohan Babu (11:47.933); 2. S. Vivek Pillai (11:48.064); 3. Manoj Yesuadiyan (11:48.694).

Race 2: 1. S. Vivek Pillai (11:54.105); 2. P. Mohan Babu (11:54.125); 3. S. Kannan (11:56.367).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200, Race 2): 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (12:25.916); 2. Shreyas Hareesh (12:35.302); 3. R.S. Abdul Basim (12:35.447).

All ears when Dhoni calls!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

World Cup-winning captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was seen interacting with India players after the team's series-clinching win in the second T20 International against England here on Saturday.

Rohit Sharma's inspirational leadership and an aggressive brand new approach saw India outclass England by 49 runs in the second match to seal the rubber on Saturday. After the game Dhoni, who was in attendance, was seen interacting with Ishan Kishan and Yuzvendra Chahal.

The pictures of the interaction were uploaded on Twitter by the BCCI. Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant also posted a photo with the legendary former captain.

"Always all ears when the great @msdhoni talks!" the BCCI tweeted alongside a photo of the discussion that took place in the dressing room.

Dhoni was also recently seen watching a match at Wimbledon.

Masterclass: Ishan Kishan gets some advice from the legend. • TWITTER@BCCI

AFI clears Aldrin for World Championships

India will have three long jumpers for the first time ever at the Worlds

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

After two trials and days of suspense, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) finally cleared long jumper Jeswin Aldrin for the World Championships which begin in Oregon, USA, on July 15.

The AFI release, which came on Sunday night, said the federation, in consultation with the members of the selection committee, decided to include Aldrin.

"We have decided to give him the chance to compete in the World Championships after he jumped 7.99m in the first trial (in Thiruvananthapuram) and 7.93m in Patiala," said Adille Sumariwalla, the AFI president.

Aldrin. • FILE PHOTO: S. MAHINSHA

> **We have decided to give him the chance after he jumped 7.99m in Thiruvananthapuram and 7.93m in Patiala**
>
> ADILLE SUMARIWALLA
> AFI president

Aldrin had achieved the World Athletics' entry standard (8.22m) in the Federation Cup in April with 8.26m and also shocked national record holder M. Sreeshankar to take the gold (with a wind-assisted 8.37m) in that event but the AFI wanted him to be close to that at the recent inter-State Nationals in Chennai, its main qualifier for the Worlds.

The 20-year-old, seventh in the World this year, could jump only 7.71 (qualifying round) and 7.51 (final) to finish sixth in Chennai.

He was later offered two trials, in Thiruvananthapuram and Patiala but the AFI made it clear that he would have to achieve its target of 8.10m to go to Oregon.

The federation has now changed its mind.

The men's long jump qualification round will be held on July 15, the opening day of the World Championships, in the evening session.

With Aldrin now included, India will have three long jumpers for the first time ever at the Worlds.

Abhishek, Surekha win compound bronze

A couple of personal milestones also for the former

WORLD GAMES

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian duo of Abhishek Verma and V. Jyothi Surekha came up with a fine performance to win the compound mixed team bronze medal at the World Games in Birmingham, USA, on Saturday.

The top-ranked Indian team, comprising Abhishek and Jyothi, defeated New Zealand 156-155 before losing to Colombia 159-157 in the semifinals.

On the mark: Surekha and Abhishek after their bronze medal win. • TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

In a neck-and-neck fight, Abhishek and Jyothi twice shot perfect scores of 40 as they pipped the Mexican pair of Andrea Becerra and Miguel Becerra (club mates, but no relation) 157-156 in the bronze medal match and ensured a podium finish.

With this, Abhishek reached a personal milestone of 50th international medal. Abhishek also became the only Indian compound archer to win medals at all top-level events, including the World championships, World Games, World Cup Final, World Cup stages, Asian Games and Asian championships.

"I thank my coach, my family and everyone who supported me. I hope compound archery gets introduced in the Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games so that I can win medals for India at these elite competitions," said Abhishek.

Abhishek lost to Frenchman Jean Philippe Boulch 143-141 in the semifinals and Canadian Christopher Perkins 148-145 in the bronze medal match to finish fourth in the individual competition.

Chandimal puts Sri Lanka ahead

His ton & century stand with Kamindu headlines day's play

AUS IN SRI LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Former captain Dinesh Chandimal hit his 13th Test century to steer Sri Lanka to a lead of 67 on day three of the second Test against Australia here on Sunday.

Australia's spinners hit back with late wickets as the hosts reached 431 for six at stumps at the Galle International Stadium. Chandimal (118) and Ramesh Mendis (7) were batting at close of play on a pitch which held firm despite spells of morning and afternoon rain.

Chandimal's 133-run fifth-wicket stand with debutant Kamindu Mendis, who made 61, remained the highlight of the day's play as Sri Lanka surpassed Australia's first innings total of 364. But Chandimal was lucky to survive a reprieve on 30 when Mitchell Starc had him caught behind only for the umpire to deny the call but ultra-edge showed a spike. Australia was left frustrated as it had exhausted its reviews.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 364.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Pathum Nissanka c Green b Starc 6, Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Swepson 86, Kusal Mendis lbw b Lyon 85, Angelo Mathews c Labuschagne b Starc 52, Dinesh Chandimal (batting) 118, Kamindu Mendis b Swepson 61, Niroshan Dickwella c Cummins b Lyon 5, Ramesh Mendis (batting) 7; Extras (b-3, lb-6, w-1, nb-1): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 149 overs): 431.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-164, 3-186, 4-269, 5-402, 6-409.

Australia bowling: Starc 19-2-47-2, Cummins 24-5-70-0, Lyon 56-5-160-2, Green 6-0-20-0, Swepson 32-2-90-2, Head 8-0-27-0, Labuschagne 4-0-8-0.

SNAPSHOTS

Iniyan finishes second

LA PLAGNE (FRANCE): Grandmaster P. Iniyan finished runner-up in The La Plagne International Open chess tournament. The 19-year-old scored seven points out of nine rounds and was tied for first place with Ukrainian GM Sivuk Vitaliy.
He finished second after the tiebreak (based on Buchholz system) was implemented.
Sayantan Das took the third spot with 6.5 points.

SSCB, Haryana pugilists' day out

CHENNAI: The Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) and Haryana pugilists had a field day in the youth men's and women's National boxing championships here on Sunday.
While 11 men from SSCB entered the semifinals, 11 from Haryana made it the last-four stage in the women's section.
Tamanna (50kg) from Haryana defeated Maharashtra's Simran Verma through unanimous decision and will now take on Kusum of Uttar Pradesh.
Bhawna Sharma (48kg), Anjali (52kg), Neeru Khatri (54kg), Prachi (60kg), Ravina (63kg), Priyanka (66kg), Lashu Yadav (70kg), Muskan (75kg), and Pranjal Yadav (81kg).

Yuki-Saketh pair wins third Challenger of the season

Puts it across top-seeded Borges-Cabral duo in Portugal

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Second seeds Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat the top seeds Nuno Borges and Francisco Cabral 6-4, 3-6, [10-6] in the doubles final of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Porto, Portugal.

The champion team collected 80 ATP points and €2,670. The runners-up won 50 points and €1,550.

It was the seventh doubles title as a pair for Yuki and Saketh since they joined forces last year. It was also the third Challenger title of the season and fifth overall, including two ITF events in Delhi and Bhopal.

In the doubles final of the $100,000 ITF women's event in Germany, Ankita Raina in partnership with Rosalie Van der Hoek was beaten 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-6] by the top seeds Anna Danilina and Arianne Hartono on Sunday.

Brooking no challenge: Saketh Myneni and Yuki Bhambri with the Challenger title in Portugal. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

$100,000 ITF women, Versmold, Germany: Doubles: Final: Anna Danilina (Kaz) & Arianne Hartono (Ned) bt Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-6].

€45,730 Challenger, Porto, Portugal: Doubles: Final: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt Nuno Borges & Francisco Cabral (Por) 6-4, 3-6, [10-6].

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles: Final: Maximus Jones (Tha) & Zheng Baoluo (Chn) bt Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 7-6(4).

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.

TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Wardoyo and An triumph at Malaysia Masters

KUALA LUMPUR

Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo captured the Malaysia Masters badminton men's title here on Sunday with a sensational upset of Hong Kong star Angus Ng Ka Long 22-20, 21-15. South Korea's An Se-young won the women's crown defeating China's Chen Yufei 21-17, 21-5. AFP

Vargas beats Magsayo for featherweight title

SAN ANTONIO

Mexico's Rey Vargas won the World Boxing Council featherweight title here on Saturday, overcoming a knockdown to take a split decision over Filipino Mark Magsayo. AFP

Theon bags Maharaja's Gold Cup

BENGALURU: P. Shroff trained Theon (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Maharaja's Gold Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 10). The winner is owned by Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria.
Theon, who took a smart jump, led all the way. It responded tremendously to the urgings in the final stages and won comfortably.

THE RESULTS:

1. MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: FIERCE FIGHTER (T.S. Jodha) 1, Perfect Halo (Rajesh K) 2, Jai Vikram (G. Vivek) 3 and Ultimate Choice (P. Surya) 4. 3/4. Nose and 4-1/4. 1m 18.44s. ₹27 (w), 13, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 42, FP: 132, Q: 91, Trinella: 320 and 100, Exacta: 3,498 and 1,927. Favourite: Fierce Fighter.
Owner: Mr. Dayanand Kachurwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

2. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: OMBUDSMAN (G. Vivek) 1, Chisox (L.A. Rozario) 2, Copper Sunrise (Akshay K) 3 and Anne Boleyn (Kirtish B) 4. 11-1/4, 1-3/4 and Hd. 1m 16.45s. ₹37 (w), 13, 24 and 13 (p), SHP: 59, THP: 58, FP: 355, Q: 231, Trinella: 821 and 180, Exacta: 1,896 and 884. Favourite: Copper Sunrise.
Owner: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

3. A.M.C. GOWDA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: VANGUARD (Likith) 1, Regal Command (Bhawani S) 2, Caracas (Akshay K) 3 and Forever Together (Suraj) 4. Not run: Imperial Blue. 1-1/4, 8 and 2. 1m 41.49s. ₹114 (w), 33 and 33 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 30, FP: 955, Q: 374, Trinella: 2,099 and 667, Exacta: 6,930 and 1,485. Favourite: Forever Together.
Owners: Mr. Neil Darashah & Guru Sports Media Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru, Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran, with The Maharaja's Gold Cup winner Theon's owner Milan Luthria, Liane Milan and daughter Inaara, left, trainer P. Shroff, right, and jockey P.C. Chouhan, second right, on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

4. MAHARAJA'S GOLD CUP (2,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): THEON (P.S. Chouhan) 1, A Star Is Born (Suraj) 2, My Opinion (Akshay K) 3 and Zuccarelli (Trevor) 4. 1-1/4, 8-3/4 and 3-1/2. 2m 22.24s. ₹39 (w), 16, 17 and 22 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 46, FP: 197, Q: 149, Trinella: 1,043 and 426, Exacta: 2,959 and 1,228. Favourite: Forest Flame.
Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. Trainer: P. Shroff.

5. RED DIVINE PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): PRIME ABBESS (Sandesh) 1, Victoria Punch (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Gimme (N.S. Parmar) 3 and Sleipnir (Ajinkya) 4. Not run: Domingo. Shd, 7 and 4-1/2. ₹27 (w), 13, 11 and 12 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 35, FP: 58, Q: 31, Trinella: 94 and 63, Exacta: 651 and 532. Favourite: Victoria Punch.
Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6. PRABALO PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: CLASSIC CHARM (Vishal B) 1, Perfect Rendition (J.H. Arul) 2, The Response (Arvind K) 3 and Bentayga (G. Vivek) 4. Lnk, 9 and 2-3/4. 1m 16.28s. ₹51 (w), 17, 15 and 22 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 59, FP: 337, Q: 109, Trinella: 1,087 and 435, Exacta: 56,510 and 12,109. Favourite: Flying Quest.
Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep by. Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

7. MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: KNOTTY WOODS (Nazerul) 1, Another Rainbow (B. Nayak) 2, Gallic (Rajesh K) 3 and Red Lucifer (Salman K) 4. 2, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m 18.02s. ₹30 (w), 16, 19 and 15 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 51, FP: 169, Q: 61, Trinella: 721 and 249, Exacta: 1,287 and 446. Favourite: Knotty Woods.
Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh & Mr. Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.
Jackpot: Rs. 2,07,960 (carried over).
Runner-up: 8,102 (11 tkts).
Treble (i): 5,551 (two tkts); (ii): 788 (28 tkts).

Arjun, Paarth in 10m Air Rifle final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANGWON

India's Arjun Babuta, Paarth Makhija qualified for the men's 10m Air Rifle final at the ISSF Shooting World Cup here on Sunday.

Arjun scored an impressive 630.5 in the 60-shot qualification stage to finish second in the 53-strong field.

Paarth, on the other hand, finished fifth with a score of 628.4.

Shahu Tushar shot 624.4 to finish 30th.

Veteran Israeli shooter Sergey Richter topped the chart with a score of 631.6.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sandhya stars in Legends De Sporting's triumph

Sandhya's 17th minute strike proved the winner as Legends De Sporting Bengaluru edged Young Stars FC 1-0 to clinch the KSFA women's B-division league title, here on Sunday.

The results:
Legends De Sporting Bengaluru 1 (Sandhya 17) bt Young Stars FC 0; Technico Football Foundation 2 (Zemiyrah Netravathi Sharma 3, Athmica Rajendra 31) bt GRK Glittering 0.

Special awards:
Best goalkeeper: Angel Maria (Young Stars); Best defender: Sara Mukundan (Young Stars); **Top scorer:** Abhirami Vadivel (18 goals, Legends De Sporting).

Supradeep powers Rising Star BC to victory

Supradeep scored 40 points as Rising Star BC Mysore beat Koramangala SC 85-79 in the State B-division basketball league championship on Sunday.

The results: KSP 81 (Manoj 31, Naveen 17) bt Rajmahal BC 56 (Rohith 12, Shishir 12); Rising Star BC Mysore 85 (Supradeep 40, Sanath 13) bt Koramangala SC 79 (Gokul 30, Manoj 10); JSC 101 (Aniketh 24, Sathyanth Katti 18) bt Protec Association Mysore 82 (Hari 51); BSNL 63 (Nikhilesh 13, Satya 12) bt BOSCH 62 (Rajeshwar 23, Shashank 15).